

Branch Offices:—LONDON, 168, STRAND; NICE, 15, QUAI MASSÉNA.

AN INFERNAL MACHINE.—Late on Friday night a boy named Fergus met a man who asked him to deliver a small box to William Miller, who lives in Douglas-street, Glasgow. The boy took the box to John Miller, a publican, who sent for his brother, William Miller. On opening the box it exploded, severely wounding William Miller and a man named Campbell. The box contained a murder

Mr. Robinson, of Brooklyn, has cause to reproach fate for having postponed his birth to the year of our Lord 1839. Thirty years hence, or even twenty, his denunciations of barbarous and perfidious Britain would have been entirely in order. At present they are received by the House of Representatives at Washington with derision and laughter. Eloquence overrides argument; it is animated by the anger of an audience; contempt and mockery are an atmosphere in which it cannot breathe. If the American people generally be surprised at all by the conduct the British Government has pursued towards Irish disorder, the wonder has been excited by the moderation and long-suffering of British politicians in their opposition to the United States for their method of dealing with domestic affairs that Irish grievances against England are likely to rouse any general sympathy. Americans know very well how they would have treated attacks upon the rights of property among themselves of the kind made across the ocean by organised Land Leaguers. There have been times in the history of the two countries when absence of love for the Irish element in the American nationality might have been supplied by the presence of dislike or jealousy against the United Kingdom. This is not such a period. Americans and Englishmen are so closely knit together by the sense of a kindred origin and kindred tendencies that no one understands the test of sympathy to be anticipated from the extraordinary emotion of national compassion for the murdered president. The disapproval expressed by most American organs of opinion of Mr. Blaine's threats directly against Chili and indirectly against Great Britain is still more satisfactory evidence of the indisposition of the people to fabricate causes of international offence. Mr. Blaine, once speaker of the House of Representatives, lately Secretary of State, twice a candidate for the Presidency, and a very possible president hereafter, is a different personage to Mr. Robinson. He, if any professional politician, might have been presumed able to feel the pulse of the nation and to suggest. From his position of eminence, which he has promptly his amazing instructions to Commissioner Trescott, he appears to have perceived in the prostration of Peru before Chili an opportunity for a stroke of business in favour of American commerce. To accept his own apology for his Peruvian partisanship as justified by English partisanship on the side of Chili would be to do an injustice to his wealthiness of political vision. Nobody knows better than Mr. Blaine that Chilian necessities are not due to English backing. Mr. Blaine has no sort of testimony to produce for his allegation that Peru feels the heavy hand of England upon her at every turn. British shipbuilders, who manufacture ironclads for Peru as gladly as for England, are not American shipbuilders, and there were any competent for the undertaking, British trade has suffered, not injured, by the deplorable civil war which has desolated Peru. British traders and investors would be delighted by any pacification which should leave Peru able to follow the path of independent and vigorous progress. Mr. Blaine pays more honour to British diplomacy than Englishmen are prone to render when he reviles and extols it as always bold, energetic, and vigilant in spreading the commercial power of England. He pays ceaseless activity and dexterity more honour when out of office than he ever showed himself to entertain when in office. He is not a politician of the United States at Washington. No statesman who had expected foreign statesmanship would have penned either the instructions to Mr. Trescott or the despatches to Lord Annull. Unfortunately for his own reputation, he committed the mistake of apprehending, not merely the character of British statesmanship, but the temper of his own countrymen. The position of Great Britain is definite in these matters. Great Britain does not use her moral power to push her commerce, as Mr. Blaine affects to believe. She seeks political favour for her trade in South America or elsewhere. She does not calculate on possible political complications arising from the projects of England in anything, she has no inclination to prepare for the future than to prepare herself for remote contingencies. In opposing an unarguable negative to Mr. Blaine's recent summons to surrender absolute patronage of the international relations of South and Central America to the Government at Washington, the British Foreign Office simply acted on the prosaic British method of following facts. Great Britain cannot pretend that she is not contented in South and Central American affairs, when notoriously, both as the leading commercial Power of the world and as a great American Power, she has the most intimate concern in them. Mr. Blaine himself urges her excessive interest in them as his patriotic ground for endeavouring to introduce an American counterweight. In negotiating the proposed treaty, with Lord Granville on the subject of the Isthmus, he asked Lord Granville to affirm the existence of a monopoly by Great Britain of an interest in them. The American monopoly exists; Lord Granville's reference of Mr. Blaine to the

DEATH OF GENERAL JOHNSTON.—General Frederick Johnston, formerly of the 67thth Regt., died at his rooms in the Albany on Tuesday last, in his ninety-second year. He entered the army in April, 1810, obtained the rank of lieutenant-colonel in 1817, and was major in 1827, and three years afterwards a senior major of the 67th. At the general promotion in November, 1841, he was made lieutenant-colonel, having gone on half-pay in February, 1836. He became colonel in February, 1854; major-general in October, 1858; lieutenant-general in January, 1866; and general in January, 1874.

THE WEATHER.—The coldest weather experienced this year in London was registered on Wednesday night. The minimum in the south-eastern metropolitan districts was 19° degrees, or 13 degrees of frost, and in the northern districts, only 30 miles from London, was 12 degrees, or 8 degrees of frost. In the south-eastern districts the minimum during the day was 24 degrees, or eight degrees of frost, and at 8 a. m., the mercury still indicated frost. On Thursday morning a dense fog enveloped the parks, and many persons who are accustomed to pass through the Green Park became puzzled. The thermometer in the fog cleared a little, and the thermometer in the park had risen to 34, just two degrees above freezing point, and the wind veered from east to south. Fog prevailed more or less in the City during the whole of the afternoon.

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Great Britain.

LONDON, FEBRUARY 4-5, 1882.

ENGLAND AND THE EGYPTIAN CRISIS.

The Saturday Review remarks that Egypt has recently furnished a topic to more than one speaker who holds, or has held, an official position which he once enabled and authorities him to speak on the subject with more than usual authority. To quarrel, not with France, but with the rest of the world, in order that we may make France the sole mistress of Egypt, is a piece of headlong folly of which the Government may have been guilty, but of which we cannot be sure it has been guilty until we know what has really happened. Lord Granville may have changed his mind entirely since he informed France that England would view with displeasure a French occupation of Tripoli, as it would bring France much too near to Egypt. But it is also possible that he may be of the same mind now as when he wrote about Tripoli. There is no kind of evidence at the command of any one who is not in the secrets of our own or some other Foreign Office that the course taken by England has offended the German Powers, or that France has made England follow her lead, or that the just claims of the Sultan have been ignored, or that the Ministry is not walking, as Sir Charles Dilke says it is, in the paths of its predecessors. There is always a chance that an English Foreign Secretary, whether he is a Liberal or Conservative, has been prudent and firm; and the best thing to do before either condemning or approving Lord Granville seems to be to take the advice of Mr. Bourke, and to wait until the meeting of Parliament supplies us with the information that is indispensable for forming a correct judgment. The occasion for action may not arise until there has been time for England to determine, in conjunction with France, with Europe, and with the Sultan, what form intervention, if absolutely necessary, shall take, or else to adopt a totally new policy, and to retire from all exercise of political influence in Egypt.

The Times says:—The time seems to be rapidly approaching when it will be necessary to ask what is the exact meaning attached by the Governments of England and France to the Joint Note lately addressed to the Khedive. It is plainly necessary that our own Government should lose no time in ascertaining the views of the new Government in France on the present situation, as well as its real intentions in case the contingencies contemplated in the Joint Note should arise. Either the Note means that force will be used if the *status quo* in Egypt is seriously menaced, or it means nothing at all. If the application of force by England and France is not to be contemplated in any contingency, that should be made plain, however difficult such intention may be to reconcile with the language of the Joint Note. There should be an end, at any rate, of firm speaking and hesitating action. If we cannot act in certain conditions we cannot make our meaning too plain; if we do not it is equally necessary to say so.

The Standard maintains that "we have got ourselves into an embarrassing predicament, and our embarrassment springs and dates from that unfortunate identical Note to which Earl Granville set his hand. In that Note it was plainly intimated that the Khedive, who had not asked for any such assurance, would be protected equally against his Parliament and his suzerain. Had it not been for that action of our Government the Notables would be curbed by the same authority that deposed Ismail Pacha, and that signed the firman under which the Anglo-French Control exists and operates. To abandon Egypt is impossible. To join France in an enterprise palpably illegal, and one which would be challenged by Germany, Austria, Russia, and Italy, would be madness. There remains an appeal to Constantinople. Were any statesman at the head of affairs except Mr. Gladstone such a step would be easy and natural. For him it will take an unnatural and difficult. Yet he must take it."

The Daily News says:—It is possible that Tewfik may himself turn for assistance to the Sultan. If he does, it will probably be the most important step which he ever took in his life. The Joint Note was no doubt directed against dangers which he should deliberately introduce himself. But it is impossible to foresee what might happen if a Turkish force were sent to Egypt by the Sultan at this critical juncture. The independence of the Khedive, such as it is, would be gone, unless the protecting Powers themselves interfered. England could indeed scarcely acquiesce in the reimposition of Turkish authority upon a country in which she has so vital an object to secure. It is not easy to see what justification we have for interfering with Egyptian claims to self-government, or what object we should gain by crushing Urabi Bey.

The Daily Telegraph observes:—To pause now and do nothing; to ignore Lord Granville's despatch of November last and the Joint Note; to leave the Controllers and the natural. For him it will take an unnatural and difficult. Yet he must take it."

rejection of duty and a betrayal of the claims, not of Liberalism merely, but of humanity. Whether the duty of restoring order and then bringing the mutineers to their senses be confined to English and French troops, or, as seems most likely, to the well-disciplined battalions of the Sultan, who is Suzerain of Egypt, strong measures, under the sanction of England and France, must be applied; and the sooner the better.

THE FINANCIAL CRISIS.

The Economist points out that it may be taken for granted that, however free London has been from the taint of French speculations, we must be affected by it. It is an axiom of Free Trade that what benefits our neighbours will, in the long run, benefit us likewise; and certainly the reverse of this is equally true where trade is as unfettered as it is between the Paris Bourse and Capel-court. Nor must it be supposed that the effect of this crisis in Paris will be very temporary. The prices not only of financial institutions, but of other descriptions of enterprise, such as railways, Canal, and other concerns, have been forced up unwarrantably high, and confidence in such prices, once shaken, is not readily restored. Besides which, the defalcations throughout France are distressingly numerous, and settlements which are only bolstered up by millions borrowed from the State cannot certainly be considered reassuring. Had the Paris crisis occurred when speculation ran so high in London last spring, when stocks were being held here so largely with borrowed money, and when our subscriptions upon new securities had attained exceptional dimensions, the effect would have been far more rapid and pronounced. As it is, a probable improvement after the weakness of last autumn has been checked, and the existing probabilities are that it will continue to be so checked for some time to come. France will not, in the nature of things, recover very soon from the shock to credit now apparent, and this may be expected before long to react upon trade. Austria and Hungary, doubtless, will feel all this more than we shall, for in France there has been a rage for Austro-Hungarian securities of all kinds; but in a modified form it will probably be found to have affected us; and even now our trade advances are distinctly less favourable than they were a month ago.

The Statist says:—The crisis, it must be understood, is not wholly a Bourse crisis. It is a monetary and banking crisis as well, and it is this feature which will make the after consequences in France more serious than they would otherwise be. Business having been developed during the last few years, by means of credit institutions, the disturbance of credit which has occurred will check the means of action which these companies have enjoyed, business will be curtailed in some directions, and all France must suffer in consequence. Along with this will be a great diminution in the purchases of certain articles of manufacture and general consumption in France, owing to the disappearance of the apparent wealth which the rise on the Bourse had created. The time for feeling these after-consequences has not yet come; but that they will be felt is quite certain, as long experience has shown. Very likely they will be surmounted more easily than they would be in the case of almost any other country, in consequence of the saving habits of the French people. The difficulties that have to be faced are as nothing compared with those which had to be faced after the Franco-German War of 1870-71. Still, they will be serious difficulties, and we ought not to expect that France will get over them for many months, and perhaps for a year or two to come. Meanwhile, however, it may be considered, apparently, that the crisis itself is over. What will happen next will probably be a considerable steady advance in the first-class securities, which have been depreciated by the events of the last few weeks having sympathised with the fall in the "rubbish" which has occurred. But the very discredit of other securities, as long experience has shown, tends to the enhancement of the value of the first-class article, and we may anticipate, therefore, that there will be a new demand for first-class securities in consequence of the Bourse crisis in France.

COURT AND FASHIONABLE NEWS.

OSBORNE, FRIDAY.

The Queen and Princess Beatrice drove out yesterday afternoon, attended by the Duke and Duchess of Roxburghe. Her Majesty's dinner party in the evening included the Empress Eugénie, the Princess Beatrice, the Dowager Duchess of Roxburghe, Madame de Argyll, the Comtesse de Bismarck, the Duc de Bassano, Baron Corvisart, Lieut.-General the Earl of Albemarle, Sir Henry Ponsonby, K.C.B., Lieut.-General Lord Charles Fitzroy, C.B., and Captain Bigge. The Hon. Lady and Mrs. Ponsonby and Mrs. Bigge, with the Ladies and Gentlemen in Waiting, had the honour of joining the Royal circle in the Drawing Room. Her Majesty walked with Princess Beatrice this morning.

ARRIVAL OF THE EMPRESS OF AUSTRIA.

The Empress of Austria and a numerous suite arrived at Dover on Saturday morning from Calais by special boat. Her Majesty had a very pleasant voyage, the sea being quite calm. On arriving alongside the pier Captain Sir T. C. Bruce, R.N., went on board and escorted her Majesty from the vessel to the special London and North Western train, which was waiting on the pier. Among those who also went on board to receive the illustrious visitor were Count Karolyi, the Austrian Ambassador, Mr. Mortimer Harris, Sir Henry Ponsonby, K.C.B., the Earl of Chatham, and Mr. J. P. Neel, superintendent of the London and North Western Railway. There was a large assemblage of ladies on the landing-stage. The Empress had luncheon at the Lord Arundell Hotel, and left at noon by the London, Chatham, and Dover line, via Longbridge Junction, for Combermere Abbey. On behalf of the company, Mr. M. Harris (the manager), Captain Godbold (continental manager), and Mr. W. C. Cockburn (superintendent of the line), accompanied the train, which was in charge of Mr. W. Kirtley, the locomotive engineer. From Battersea the Empress proceeded over the West London Extension and by the London and North Western Railway to Wrenbury, Cheshire.

The Duchess of Sutherland is on a visit to the Duke of Westminster at Eaton Hall. The Duchess, with Countess Grosvenor, visited Chester Cathedral yesterday afternoon.

The Earl of Northbrook entertained Lord Cardigan, the Right Hon. the Speaker, Lady Brand, and Miss Brand, and a party at dinner on Friday evening at his official residence at the Admiralty.

Countess Granville has sent out invitations for evening parties on every Wednesday

during the present month and in March at the family residence, Carlton House-terrace.

Lord and Lady Monson have returned to their residence in Belgrave-square from Burton Hall, Lincolnshire.

Lord and Lady Sudeley and family have arrived in town from their country seat.

Lord and Lady Hotfield have arrived at 2, Chesterfield-gardens, Mayfair, from Hotfield-place, Kent.

The Right Hon. William N. F. Cogan, M.P., has arrived from a tour in Ireland.

Sir Michael Costa continues to improve. A messenger called at Sir Michael's residence to make inquiries on behalf of the Queen on Friday morning.

We have authority for stating that the medallion which has been announced between the Hon. Miss Abbott and Mr. Le Bas will not take place—*Morning Post*.

Letters have been received from the Rev. Stephen Gladstone, rector of Hawarden, announcing his arrival, in improved health, at Gibraltar on board of Mr. Brassey's yacht *Sunbeam*.

ECHOES OF THE WEEK.

"They've got 'em on!"—the boxing-gloves, the fencers' masks, the starter-staves, the rapiers, all ready for "the carte and the tierce, and the reason demonstrative." This is "writ large" as Artemus Ward would have said. I really mean that in the February number of *Temple Bar* (a magazine for which I have an enduring fondness) is a furious polemic going on between Miss Frances Power Cobbe, Lady Shelley, and the anonymous writer of a very clever article on the late Mr. E. J. Trelawny, which appeared in a recent number of the *Temple Bar*. The anonymous writer is Lord Byron's club foot, and the ashes of Shelley's heart. The Byron business is, as Miss Cobbe very aptly says, a "horrid one"; so, for the details of the story, I must refer you to the current issue of T.B. As regards the poet of the "Revolt of Islam," who has set the King and the Royal General quarrelling, and the third person, and with the disfigured dignity of the Prophet Mahomet addressing a black beetle to stigmatise as "an atrocious falsehood" some statement made about Shelley's heart.

Mem. The writer of the impugned article on Mr. Trelawny sums up his reply to her Ladyship's complaint with a general observation that people who live in glass houses should not throw stones. The gentleman is, colloquially, a little behind the age. The most modern version of the proverb is (I think I have pointed this out before) "that philosophers ought not to say bricks."

Why on earth cannot people leave poor Byron's foot and Shelley's heart alone? In this most unbecomingly controversial Mr. E. J. Trelawny is branded as a shameless teller of lies; and the names of Mrs. Shelley, Mrs. Byron, Leigh Hunt, and the Royal General George "Finlay" are all dragged in, *a tort et travers*. Does it matter, at this time of day, whether the Card of Childe Harold was a contempered or a *cul-de-jatte*? Whether he was a Briarrose or a twin brother of Miss Biffin? Whether he was a friend of the Royal General's, or a scoundrel's hump, and Heine's paralysis, and Hoger's *l'été de mort*?

The beautiful Mrs. Langtry is not the only actress who in that which was practically a first professional appearance (for the *Sloops to the Sea*) lighted her way to the Theatre Royal, Theatrical Fund, was only a *coup d'essai* so far as Mrs. Langtry was concerned) has charmed a London audience by going through the military exercise on the stage. In the year 1750 the famous Amazon Hannah Seal, who had been a member of the Royal General's staff, and had more than once been severely wounded in action, was persuaded to try her fortune as a public performer. She had a handsome person and a good voice, and she obtained an engagement at the Theatre Royal, Covent Garden, for a short time. She also represented Fircloak, a soldier; and in the last-named character "went through the manual and platoon exercise in the most masterly and perfect manner."

Three hundred and thirty not long continue to cultivate the Thespian art. In consideration of the gallantry which she had exhibited at the siege of Pondicherry, a comfortable pension was settled on her by the Government, and she gracefully retired into private life. An amuseur (for the sake of the aesthetes and the romantics) to add that the English Lord and Lady are opposed to the Thespian art by the sign of "The Female Warrior," at Wapping, and that she eventually married a respectable carpenter.

That estimable section of the Anglican clergy the Curates have formed an Alliance, the object of which is to agitate for fixity of tenure and an amelioration of the diocesan status of the unbefuddled clergy. To put the matter more plainly, there are some five thousand curates, assisting rectors and vicars in parishes ranging from a few hundred to one hundred and fifty pounds per annum. Then there are about five thousand more curates "unattached"; but a very large proportion of these, I should say, must be assistant curates in schools. The Curates are, in fact, liable to dismissal at the capricious will of their employers, and that they ought, in justice, to be irremovable, and to be paid not directly by the incumbent but out of a diocesan fund. The Alliance held a very numerous attended meeting in the City of London on Friday evening, and a few days afterwards the *Times* gave the Alliance a leading article, in which a liberal allowance of buckets of cold water was administered to the "ecclesiastical hirelings," as they are called, and who complain that the term of his time was called.

The term "Curate" has been strangely perverted from its original meaning. At first Curate signified any ecclesiastical having a care of souls; and "curate" was, indeed, a convertible word with "parson." The Curate was distinctly an original and creative genius, and his memory is entitled to the highest honours that could be paid to it by the State. Mem. One fine morning in the summer of 1866 I walked, in the rear of the Italian variety, into the city of Rovigo, in the Dominion Veneto, the Austrian garrison having just previously walked out from the other extremity of the town. The citizens of enfranchised Rovigo forthwith went stark staring mad with joy; the windows were *inhabilitated*; everybody embraced everybody; the wildest excesses of joy and leonine leonine were distinctly an original and creative genius, and his memory is entitled to the highest honours that could be paid to it by the State.

The performance itself was not of a very superior class. I forgot the name of the opera; but, if I remember aright, the *prima donna assoluta* was at least fifty, and had no voice to speak of; the *basso profundo* was as dumb as a raven; and the tenor had a wooden leg. But the Opera-house at Rovigo is a very handsome theatre, and, illuminated *a giorno*, and crowded with people dressed in their Sunday best, it looked splendid. I was in the pit, and, standing up, as the entire company sang *Gaudeamus*, I noticed that the front of the grand tier of boxes was decorated with a series of oval medallions bearing the names of famous composers. I spelt them all out—Handel, Mozart, Gluck, Rossini, Bellini, Verdi, Wagner, Mendelssohn, Schumann, Donizetti, Meyerbeer, Cherubini, Flotow, Balfe—ah, the poor man was alive then; but no such honour had been paid him in his own country.

Are our American cousins really in danger, owing to the abnormal mildness (as yet, my friends, as yet), of an ice famine next summer? The latest reports of the ice harvest are slightly more reassuring than those which last came to hand. A *New York Herald* reporter has recently "interviewed" an extensive dealer in the frigid commodity, and has been assured that from the State of Maine, at least, the supply of ice will be unlimited. On Bartlett Lake, which is on the line of the Portland and Rochester Railroad, the ice is stated to be ten inches thick. On the other hand the Kennebec river is only "shelled over," and not fit for "cutting." It is probable, in any case, that the apprehended scarcity of an article which the mercantile mind has hitherto refused to go without will lead to extensive "cornering" on the part of the ice companies, and that the price of ice will be largely enhanced. There is not the slightest reason for supposing that the American people should gulp down about three-quarters of a pint of ice water apiece before breakfast all the year round; but they will do it, and they all do it; and there is no use in endeavouring to dissuade them from the deleterious practice.—*G.A.N.* in the *Illustrated London News*.

THE VACANCY IN WESTMINSTER.

The announcement that a vacancy had suddenly occurred in the representation of the borough of Westminster by the retirement through ill-health of Sir Charles Russell has set the various political organisations for the district hard at work. Up to the present time the Liberal party have not yet announced any candidate; in fact, the whole affair has been somewhat of a surprise that they have had time to call any committee meeting for the purpose of making a selection. The Conservatives, on the other hand, have not only chosen their candidate, but have made arrangements for Lord Alington Percy to visit their various District Committees in the Albany on Tuesday last, in his ninety-second year. He entered the army in April, 1810, obtained the rank of captain in August, 1817, and that of major in 1827, and three years after became senior major of the 67th. At the general election in November, 1841, he was made lieutenant-colonel, having gone on half-pay in February, 1836. He became colonel in June, 1854; major-general in October, 1858; lieutenant-general in January, 1866; and general in January, 1874.

REMINISCENCES OF FAUST.—At a meeting of the Royal Society of Literature on Wednesday night, General Sir Colingwood Dickson, V.C., read a paper contributed by Sir Patrick de Colquhoun, on "Faust." The author of this paper commenced by showing Faust to be an historical personage, and a friend and companion of Cornelia Agrippa, himself suspected of magical heresies. His death is mentioned by Gesner, who compares him to Paracelsus; and, further, in Luther's "Table-talk" he is referred to in no complimentary strain. The oldest mention of Faust is contained in a story that he was born at Rod, near Weimar (Roda in Altenburg), and that he was educated at Wittenberg, in Ingolstadt, and Craan, attaining ultimately the degree of doctor of divinity. Mephistopheles is stated to have been told off by the Devil to marry to his thirst for knowledge, as he had entered into a contract with that personage, signed with his own blood. He is described as a man of considerable classical attainments, and is said to have delivered lectures at Erfurt University, and at the University of Erfurt, where he was a lecturer in metaphysics. He was a student of the occult sciences, and was a student of the occult sciences, and was a student of the occult sciences.

THE QUEEN AND THE MANNING OF CATTLE IN IRELAND.

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has published the following in their journal, the *Animal World*.—In our last number we announced that the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals had recently invited all its branches and kindred associations to join in a public protest against the wounding of cattle in Ireland, and to invite the Dublin Society to circulate the same throughout Ireland, in order that the public opinion of civilized mankind might be brought to bear on the consciences of offenders, so long as the law cannot be applied. The January journal was accordingly published before the following letter from the Queen was forwarded to the president of the Society:—

Dear Lord Alington Percy, I am glad to hear that the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals is taking any steps with regard to the wounding of cattle and other horrible practices on the part of the Irish people. I am sure that the Society's efforts will be successful in bringing about a more humane and civilized state of mind in Ireland. I am sure that the Society's efforts will be successful in bringing about a more humane and civilized state of mind in Ireland. I am sure that the Society's efforts will be successful in bringing about a more humane and civilized state of mind in Ireland.

DRIVING THROUGH THE SALVATION ARMY.—At the Dudley police-court on Friday, Samuel Brooks, publisher, was charged with negligently driving, and with using a "lieutenant" in the Salvation Army. The defendant came up with the Army, and deliberately lashed his horse in among the crowd, striking right and left at those who tried to stop the horse. He was fined 25s. and costs, or three weeks' imprisonment.

LIVING IN THE WOODS.—A strange-looking man, about forty years of age, was charged at the Dudley police-court on Friday with sleeping in the open air, and having no visible means of subsistence. A constable said that for more than a month past he had heard of a man who slept nightly in Shooter's Hill Wood, and search had been made for him without result until the previous night, when he was found lying in a hollow concealed by close brushwood and brambles, and covered with straw and sheets of brown paper. The prisoner, who is a native of France and did not speak English, said that he had lived in the wood for the last two months. He was a musician, and he came to London with 600fr., of which he was robbed. He had since been living in the best way he could, and not very uncomfortably, and he only wanted to be let alone until the fine season came, and then he would get home. The magistrate suggested that he would be better in the workhouse, but he retorted that he had been one night in the workhouse, and would rather be snug in the woods. He was discharged from custody, but the police accompanied him to the workhouse.

A DISPUTE BETWEEN ELECTRICIANS.—Mr. Robinson, one of the Examiners of the House of Commons, gave his decision on Thursday in the cases of the British Electric Light Company (Limited), the Anglo-American Brush Electric Light and Power Generator and the Electric Light and Power Generator Company (Limited). All the cases had been opposed when brought before the Examiner last week, for the purpose of complying with the standing orders. Mr. Robinson now decided that the allegations of the opponents to the bills had not been sustained, and that the standing orders had been duly complied with.

MR. BRADLAUGH'S SEAT.—Mr. Labouchere and Mr. Bradlaugh were present at a dinner at Northampton on Wednesday night. Mr. Labouchere said that Mr. Bradlaugh would present himself at the table of the House of Commons on the first day of the session, when, if Sir Stafford Northcote moved a resolution to hinder him and his constituency from enjoying their constitutional rights, the pre-arranged question would be moved. He was not without hope that Mr. Gladstone would himself move the previous question, and if he did so probably the "shabby abstentions" on the part of Liberals which occurred last year would not take place, and they would be defeated. They might rest assured that he would not allow the matter to rest; but he would not anticipate a defeat. Mr. Bradlaugh remarked that there might soon be another fight in the borough, for he meant to fight the fight of the year, and he meant to fight the fight of the year, and he meant to fight the fight of the year.

THE PUNISHMENT OF THE "CAT."—Thomas Winter, a labourer, who was convicted at Durham assizes of an assault upon Mary Thompson, aged 78 years, received the first portion of his punishment in Durham gaol on Wednesday, when he had 15 strokes of the cat. It is stated to have borne his punishment phlegmatically.

COLONEL BRINE'S BALLOON VOYAGE.—Colonel Brine, R.E., has nearly completed his arrangements for his proposed aerial voyage from Canterbury to the French Coast by the route of the Channel, and he has been visiting Ashford and Folkestone, and had interviews with the managers of the gasworks at those towns, with a view to arrange for refilling his balloon at one or other place should he be driven in either direction and be compelled to make temporary descent. The aeronaut who will accompany Colonel Brine in his trip has expressed a wish to postpone starting until about the full moon (the 5th of March), when the weather is likely to be clearer.

DEATH OF GENERAL JOHNSTON.—General Frederick Johnston, formerly of the 67th Regiment, died on Monday morning at his residence in the Albany on Tuesday last, in his ninety-second year. He entered the army in April, 1810, obtained the rank of captain in August, 1817, and that of major in 1827, and three years after became senior major of the 67th. At the general election in November, 1841, he was made lieutenant-colonel, having gone on half-pay in February, 1836. He became colonel in June, 1854; major-general in October, 1858; lieutenant-general in January, 1866; and general in January, 1874.

REMINISCENCES OF FAUST.—At a meeting of the Royal Society of Literature on Wednesday night, General Sir Colingwood Dickson, V.C., read a paper contributed by Sir Patrick de Colquhoun, on "Faust." The author of this paper commenced by showing Faust to be an historical personage, and a friend and companion of Cornelia Agrippa, himself suspected of magical heresies. His death is mentioned by Gesner, who compares him to Paracelsus; and, further, in Luther's "Table-talk" he is referred to in no complimentary strain. The oldest mention of Faust is contained in a story that he was born at Rod, near Weimar (Roda in Altenburg), and that he was educated at Wittenberg, in Ingolstadt, and Craan, attaining ultimately the degree of doctor of divinity. Mephistopheles is stated to have been told off by the Devil to marry to his thirst for knowledge, as he had entered into a contract with that personage, signed with his own blood. He is described as a man of considerable classical attainments, and is said to have delivered lectures at Erfurt University, and at the University of Erfurt, where he was a lecturer in metaphysics. He was a student of the occult sciences, and was a student of the occult sciences, and was a student of the occult sciences.

THE PERSECUTION OF THE JEWS IN RUSSIA.—A town's meeting was held at Manchester on Friday in reference to the sufferings of Russian Jews. The mayor presided, and the Bishop of Manchester, Baron Henry de Worms, Mr. Serjeant Simon, and Mr. John Slagg, M.P., were among the speakers. A resolution was passed expressing sympathy with the English Government, and asking some means of calling the attention of the Czar to the brutal and unprovoked cruelties practised upon the Jews of Russia and Poland, and requesting that measures might be taken that would prevent their recurrence. A meeting on the same subject was held at Liverpool under the presidency of the mayor. A resolution was passed protesting against the outrages, and urging that an amelioration was required in the oppressive laws directed against the Jewish inhabitants of Russia. A copy of the resolution was ordered to be sent to the Premier and another to the Foreign Secretary. The Mansion House fund amounted on Friday to over £26,000.

GALLANT CONDUCT.—General Nicholson, Governor of Jersey, presented on Friday medals of the Humane Society to Edward Touzel and John De La Mare, for bravery in saving life. Touzel, who is only seventeen years old, has been the means of saving ten lives on nine occasions. His first feat was performed at fourteen years of age, when he saved the lives of two boys in the St. Helier's school. His last was saving the life of a child, Granville, for which he recently received a gold medal from the French Government. De La Mare, who is twenty-four years of age, has saved the lives of six persons on many occasions. The funeral of Sir Robert Christison took place in Edinburgh on Wednesday afternoon, the funeral procession being one of the largest ever seen in that city. The Lord Provost, magistrates, and Town Council attended in their robes of office, and most of the public bodies of the Scottish metropolis were represented. The service was conducted in St. George's Church, Charlotte-square, whence the procession proceeded to the grave in the new Calton burying-ground.

BICYCLES AND THE POLICE.—On examining his farm on Friday morning, a farmer of Ness discovered that during the night some person had broken into his fowlhouse, and with a billhook had chopped up a large number of very valuable birds. Some were lying dead, with their heads chopped off, some were alive and fluttering about without legs, others were hacked about the back and badly mutilated. On inspecting the stable it was discovered that a horse was missing. Sergeant O'Donnell immediately started off in pursuit on his bicycle, following a man to Wrexham, and back again to Chester, where the fellow was apprehended by the police, to whom information had been given. When charged the Prisoner replied, "Well, I suppose they won't hang me for it."

DEATH AT A WEDDING.—The coroner for Clonmel, in Ireland, has just received information of a sad occurrence at a wedding feast. The guests were dancing, and the aunt of the bride went to a side-board for wine for the servants. She took in mistake a bottle of vitriol, and drinking the first glass herself she discovered the mistake. After terrible sufferings she died in half an hour.

THE BALLOON CHANNEL VOYAGE.—A meeting of practical aeronauts and scientists was held at the Royal Aquarium Library on Saturday, among those present being Colonel R. E., Mr. Simmons, M. Andrieux (of Paris), who the proposed voyage, a balloon across the English Channel was discussed, and the matter finally arranged. During the proceedings Mr. Simmons stated that the place of starting would be Canterbury or Ashford, and the date would be about the 14th of the present month. This would be the first scientific balloon trip across the Channel, as Mr. Green's voyage from Vauxhall Gardens some forty years ago, although it terminated in Nassau, was not actually organised for that purpose. Mr. Simmons said he was not daunted by the fact that Mr. Powell, M.P., but he had determined to avoid the error which was made in that trip, for he felt sure the "Saladin" had too many passengers and too little ballast. He had chosen an india-rubber balloon because he believed that the material was more reliable than silk for a sea voyage.

DISURBANCE AT A PUBLIC MEETING.—At a meeting held on Friday night at the United Ireland Club, St. Francis, for the purpose of passing resolutions condemnatory of the Government, several persons delivered addresses, amid continued interruptions, and eventually a free fight ensued, persons opposed to the objects of the meeting being present in large numbers. Seats and tables were overturned, the platform stormed, and the furniture of the club destroyed. The meeting was declared at last by the chairman, but the disturbance continued for some time longer, and it is stated that several persons were hurt.

THE CASE OF JAMES NICOL FLEMING.—James Nicol Fleming, ex-director of the City of Glasgow Bank, who was arrested in Manchester on the 23rd of January for alleged complicity in the transactions which led to the collapse of the City of Glasgow Bank, was liberated from Duke-street Prison, Glasgow, on bail, on Friday night.

THE CHANNEL TUNNEL.—The Press Association states that the Channel Tunnel, fully alive to the possibility of having to impose certain exceptional conditions in the event of the Channel Tunnel being constructed. A committee, representing the War Office, the Admiralty, and the Board of Trade, have already had several sittings, and have received evidence and the opinion of skilled authorities on the subject. The committee has now adjourned for a short time, but is expected shortly to resume its deliberations.

DEATHS IN THE METROPOLIS.—On Saturday morning the whole of the Metropolitan area, but more especially the City and the districts lying south of the Thames, was enveloped in a dense fog which may fairly be characterised as the worst experienced during the present winter. The early tramcars running from Greenwich to Fenchurch Lane, and the omnibuses, were crowded to excess, although only able to proceed at a walking pace, whilst the workmen's trains were in many instances an hour behind time, thus entailing great loss of time on the workmen, Saturday being almost universally accepted as a half-holiday. Owing to the risk all building operations are suspended, the men positively refusing to venture on the scaffolds. On all the suburban lines of railway double relays of fog signal men were sent out and were kept actively engaged, owing to the constant succession of accidents. Obed traffic. On the roads both above and below bridge, all traffic is suspended; whilst at the "river stairs" the ferry-men refuse to venture across the stream. In the City, all places of business are lighted up as brilliantly as at night, whilst in the public thoroughfares the electric and gas lamps are lighted. On Blackfriars Bridge such was the density of the fog that even the electric light at a distance of three yards only emitted a feeble ray. In the Westminster Bridge, Blackfriars, and Old Kent-roads, gangs of lunk boys are out with flaming torches, but which are not projected simply for annoyance and not for utility. About eight on Saturday morning, two gentlemen rowing down the Thames, off Hampton, saw the body of a woman floating in the river. They towed it to the shore and commencing an inquiry, they discovered that it was the body of the Crown Jeweller, and on searching it found a number of documents, from which it appeared that the deceased was a governess. She is described as about 22, dark, and with loose black hair. Two pocket handkerchiefs and her under linen are marked "Howe". It is thought that she had fallen into the river this morning during the dense fog which prevailed, it being evident that the body had not been very long in the water when it was recovered.

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The Times

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Great Britain
LONDON, FEBRUARY 5-6, 1882.

THE EVE OF THE SESSION.

To-morrow (Tuesday), the Parliamentary Session of 1882 will begin, to the great relief of the public mind and to the clear advantage of public discussion. The Message in which the Queen will communicate to the two Houses in general terms the policy of the Government can hardly be expected to dissipate lingering doubts, or to raise novel questions. It has rarely happened that the course of events has so plainly marked out the main lines of Ministerial conduct. For weeks and even months past it has been made widely known that Mr. Gladstone and his colleagues intend, before proceeding with any further legislative reforms, to take in hand the improvement of the rules of the House of Commons. The measures to the enactment of which the improved machinery is to be put in the first instance applied, have also been designated, not only in Ministerial speeches during the recess, but by the history of former efforts and of reiterated pledges. Moreover, the imperious necessities of time and space exclude from the scope of Ministerial policy some projects of the highest importance and of extreme complexity, with which it would be impossible to deal in a Session partially devoted to other objects. The work which it will be practicable to undertake when the reform of the Parliamentary rules has been carried—as, in its one shape or another, it certainly will be—not without its own value, but it cannot be thought likely to promote feverish excitement. A Bankruptcy Bill, a County Government Bill, a Municipality of London Bill will not make the coming Session a memorable and stirring one. It is, however, satisfactory that political parties should come down to the level of the popular wishes, which at present are decidedly turning in favour of domestic legislation of a sober and steadily progressive character. It is evident that, in spite of the sensational attractions of foreign affairs and the incessant pressure of Irish agitation, the mass of the English people are unwilling that safe and moderate progress at home should be halted or delayed. Public men, whatever their party connections or their position in political life, ought to be forward to show that they are ready to foster and to co-operate with this movement of public feeling. It is not to the labours of Parliament that should be doomed to sterility. The late Government, as well as the present, had to complain that many of its best efforts were defeated through the operation of causes which a judicious reform of procedure would mitigate, if not remove. We may assume that the Ministerial policy, so far as it is concerned with legislative measures, must be confined within the general limits we have pointed out. If there be still room for speculative ingenuity, it is in regard to those questions which politicians and the country at large would alike be glad to be able to banish from their thoughts, but which return and insist on obtaining a hearing and an answer. It is not difficult to conjecture what the Government will say in the Royal Message about the reform of the Parliamentary rules and the ordinary measures of the Session. We enter upon a far more doubtful matter when we inquire what is to be said about the state of Ireland, and still more, about the complication in Egypt. The former of these two perplexing questions will, no doubt, be fully discussed and examined in the debates upon the Address. But there must be some general account of the situation in the Speech from the Throne. The operation and the effects of the Land Act have now become subject to legitimate criticism, and the time is at hand when either the Government must show that lawlessness in its various forms has been put down, or must make a dangerous confession of failure.

We learn from various sources, that the Government will be able to point with hope and encouragement to many symptoms of an improving state of things. But it will not be contended that the struggle is over and the danger at an end. The recent prosecutions at the Winter Assizes have revealed the extent and the vigour of the organization which the Land League appears to have taken over, in commercial phrase, "as a going concern," from Fenianism. The "no rent" epidemic, expelled from some districts by the strict enforcement of legal process, breaks out anew in others. The Government, however, has begun to make the lawless feel that the game they are playing is a perilous one. We are thoroughly convinced that if the Irish Executive is allowed to hold firmly and courageously to the course entered upon four months ago, the masses in Ireland will rally to the cause of law and order, which is, after all, their own. We have no reason to doubt that Mr. Forster will persevere with and will carry through the task which has been imposed upon him by events. The clamour of sentimentalists, in Parliament or out of it, as well as the appeals of those politicians who have to cast an eye sideways at the Irish vote in their constituencies, ought not for a moment to be allowed to interfere with what Liberal and Conservative statesmen have united in declaring to be the paramount duty of a civilised State. The condition of foreign affairs in general will

probably be dismissed with slight notice in the Queen's Speech. But there is one subject on which a declaration, or at least an indication, of Ministerial policy will be expected with interest and even anxiety. The position in which the Joint Note apparently placed the two Western Powers in regard to the preservation of the status quo in Egypt was, no doubt, open to many objections; but it was, or seemed to be, at all events, intelligible and unmistakable. It was universally understood to mean that France and England would not allow the status quo to be seriously menaced either by the overthrow of the Khedive's Government or the repudiation of the European Control, and that their determination would, if necessary, be supported by force. The language used by semi-official journals in Paris renders it impossible to doubt that public opinion in France is not inclined to adhere to the policy of the Joint Note, and that the new Ministry may be regarded as having practically abandoned it. It may be anticipated that Lord Granville and Mr. Gladstone will endeavour to show that the Joint Note did not commit this country to engagements in which our allies are unwilling to bear their part, and we do not contend that some such explanation may not be plausibly put forward, although clearly the Joint Note was construed as the public in this country have construed it by the other Powers. However this may be, it is manifest that if the policy of the Joint Note—as commonly understood—is to be dropped, something must be substituted for it. The situation bristles with difficulties, but it is indispensable to decide upon some course. The present uncertainty cannot fail to create further embarrassments, if it be permitted to endure, by exciting ambitious hopes both in Egypt and at Constantinople. The one point upon which French opinion appears to be determined is that the assistance of the Sultan shall not be invoked to restore order in Egypt. It is suspected that this idea has been encouraged by other Powers, but the encouragement can hardly be serious. While, however, the supposed agreement between France and England is reduced to an unmeaning exercise of diplomatic skill in playing with phrases, the situation in Egypt is in danger of developing new and worse difficulties every day. It would be some guarantee of safety and stability if the Government were to make it plain that it has a policy, and one which can be revealed in ordinary language to the apprehension of ordinary men.—Times.

THE EGYPTIAN CRISIS.

The Cairo correspondent of the *Standard* telegraphs on Sunday:—
It is obvious to everybody at all conversant with Egyptian politics that the new Ministry is the Ministry of Parliament, but of Arabi Bey. The President of the Council of Ministers and Minister of the Interior is Arabi Bey, and the Minister of War and Marine in the late Cabinet: Arabi Bey, being so to speak, Under Secretary of State in the same department. Arabi Bey himself now takes the office lately held by Mahmoud Pacha Sami, and has thus virtually secured the official as well as the practical control of the army. The Minister of Finance, Ali Pacha Sadyk, was the native administrator of the Egyptian Government. One of the most interesting personalities in the new Cabinet is Mahmoud Bey Fehmy, who is chief of the Department of Public Works. He is a man of proved capacity, and it may be remembered that he was the military engineer who constructed the fortifications at Varna during the Russo-Turkish war. The other Ministers, Mustapha Bey Pacha (Public Instruction), and Hassan Pacha Chereh (Religious Domains), are not so well known to France.

The new Ministers visited the Khedive to-day. They thanked his Highness for their appointments in very respectful terms. Perhaps the most significant demonstration was that made later on in the day. Then upwards of six hundred officers of all grades in the Army went to his Highness's Palace to express their gratitude for appointing the present Cabinet. They declared that, while recognising the suzerainty of the Sultan, they were most faithful and devoted to the Khedive and to Egypt. They were banded together by one common aim—namely, to defend the Khedive against all enemies of their country, the welfare of which they were determined to make the guiding motive of their action. When the officers left, the Khedive's guards turned out of their barracks, and openly, not to say noisily, manifested their delight at the manner in which his Highness had accepted the Cabinet of the Army and Arabi Bey. They sent up great shouts of "Vive le Khedive!" These facts indicate what would probably have occurred if his Highness had persisted in retaining Cherif Pacha in power. The Khedive, it is now admitted on all hands, had no alternative but to accept Cherif's resignation in order to maintain public tranquillity, ally public excitement, and anxiety, and thus avert a military revolt. The demeanour of his Highness in this trying crisis has been calm and dignified, and has produced a good impression here.

His Highness fully recognises the suzerainty of Turkey, and is now, as he has been, the loyal vassal of the Sultan. At the same time, he is fully resolved to keep his engagements to England, France, and the European Powers faithfully and to the letter. But he earnestly hopes that the Powers will all exercise a little patience and anxiety until the new Ministry have had a fair chance of proving their mettle, and until they have shown what course they mean to pursue. Precipitate action by one or more of the Powers would, he considers, have just now results, and would lead to grave complications, beyond the power of man to ward off. The new Cabinet acquiesces in the demand of the Chamber of Deputies with reference to the voting of the Budget, in spite of the opposition offered by England and France. Some arrangement or compromise it is, however, thought may be devised which, while meeting the views, will save the honour of all parties concerned. But, in any event, it is generally considered that England and France would show wisdom in, at least, giving the new Ministry a fair trial, and in refraining from needlessly embarrassing them at the outset of their career.

INDIA.
The Calcutta correspondent of the *Times* telegraphs on Sunday:—
The Government has resolved to appoint an Imperial Commission on education consisting of 21 members representing different provinces of India and classes of the community. Each local government will specially select a high educational officer on behalf of the department of public instruction, and one or more natives of rank or intellectual eminence will also attend from each province. The president will be the Honourable Mr. Hunter, who will represent in a special manner the Supreme Government and the views of the British Government with regard to the education of India. Among the distinguished natives will be the Honourable Maharajah Jotendra Mohan Tajoore, the Honourable Bhudheh Moo, and others, on behalf of the Hindus; and the Honourable Syed Ahmed Khan Bahadur, on behalf of the Mussulmans.

Among the educational officers will be Mr. Croft, Director of Public Instruction in Bengal; Professor Deighton, of Agra; Mr. Jacob, Bombay; and Mr. Browning, Director of Public Instruction in the Central Provinces. The Missionary Societies will be strongly represented by Mr. Blackett, Anglican, principal of the Church Missionary Society Institution; Mr. Miller, Presbyterian, principal of the Christian College, Madras; and a Roman Catholic not yet nominated. The duties of the Commission will be, first, to inquire into the action of the educational despatches from 1854 to 1868 and how far the educational policy prescribed by the Home Government has been carried out by the various local administrations; secondly, to inquire more especially how far primary education has been given to the people under those despatches and to suggest means whereby vernacular education can be made more universal; thirdly, to devise means for its extension at a minimum cost to the State by setting free, if possible, funds which are now devoted to higher education, and by substituting a grant in aid of the system for direct Government support; fourthly, to offer every encouragement to native gentlemen to establish and support schools on a grant in aid of the system; fifthly, to ascertain how far it will be possible for the Government to hand over under proper guarantees its own schools and colleges to bodies of native gentlemen who will undertake to manage them as aided institutions; sixthly, to endeavour to supplement the results thus obtained by enlisting the municipalities in the work of primary education, and by a large extension of the vernacular schools at the municipal cost and under municipal control. The development of indigenous schools will also form a special subject of inquiry. The Commission will also be directed to make suggestions as to the better training of teachers, the improvement of the present system of inspection, the extension of female education, and as to a more intelligent system of statistical returns on a uniform basis; also as to the preparation of a great series of text-books for use in the schools throughout India. The Commission will sit till April, when the members will disperse to their own duties till the next cold season. In the interval, Mr. Hunter, as president, will visit the different provincial governments with a view to studying the system of education, and by a large extension of the Commission will be directed to make suggestions as to the better training of teachers, the improvement of the present system of inspection, the extension of female education, and as to a more intelligent system of statistical returns on a uniform basis; also as to the preparation of a great series of text-books for use in the schools throughout India. The Commission will sit till April, when the members will disperse to their own duties till the next cold season. 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LONDON, FEBRUARY 9-10, 1882.

MR. GLADSTONE AND THE CLOTURE.

Sir Stafford Northcote gave notice on Thursday evening that when the Prime Minister brings forward his Resolutions regarding the Procedure of the House he shall oppose the First, embodying the *Closure*. Mr. Marriott, one of the Liberal members for Brighton, has also given notice of an Amendment to the effect that no Rule of Procedure can be considered satisfactory which confers the power of closing the Debate on a bare majority of members. In fact, the more Mr. Gladstone's first "new Rule" is considered, the more the certainty grows that the House of Commons will refuse its assent to it. The whole drift of public opinion is clearly and resolutely against it: it is faintly defended by a few timid Ministerialist journals, and vigorously denounced everywhere else. Nor is there anything in the state of public affairs to warrant so extensive a suppression of the rights and liberties of Parliament as Mr. Gladstone now proposes; for although the difficulties which impeded the endowment of the Ministry with an absolute and despotic authority would be a far greater one, and only to be borne under the pressure of some tremendous national crisis such as was held by the ancient Romans to justify a Dictatorship. To pretend that such an innovation is necessary to ensure a speedier passage of Bankruptcy Bills, or County Board Bills, or Rivers Conservancy Bills, is an outrage on the public common sense. The proposal is nothing less than to confer on the Government of the day the power of terminating Debates exactly when it chooses, by the fiat of a bare majority. The sham conditions by which the proposal is accompanied only make matters worse, because they show that the authors of it are aware of its arbitrary character. When less than forty members oppose the application of the *Closure*, this opposition may be overruled by any majority whatsoever. If thirty-nine are against it, thirty-nine can silence them. It is only when the minority exceeds forty that a show of moderation is introduced by the provision that the majority in that case must number more than two hundred members. Thus, if the minority be forty, the majority must be two hundred and one; but then if the minority be two hundred, the majority must be four hundred and one; and so on. In the same way, two hundred and fifty could silence two hundred and forty-nine; three hundred could silence two hundred and ninety-nine; and that, too, without debate or protest. The limitation imposed is a mere form, which, in so far as it masks the real nature of the Rule, only makes it more dangerous. As the Minister will always have the required number at his disposal—for one who has not must very soon cease to be Minister—it is clear that if the Rule is passed, the freedom of speech so long enjoyed by members of the House of Commons will be placed entirely at the mercy of one man; and what is really the final stage of Parliamentary Government will cease to exist. Now, we must remind the country that this particular policy, which is the boast of Englishmen to have maintained, has not been maintained so long for the sake of legislation, but for the sake of liberty. We cannot allow the second to be sacrificed to the first, and at any cost the House of Commons is bound to reject this innovation. It cannot be entertained for a moment. If it were to be adopted there would be very little necessity for the other eleven weeks which Mr. Gladstone has added to it. Absolute master of the debates, the leader of the House would arrange business as he pleased, and he would generally be able to bend private members to his will by threatening to stop discussion unless they submitted to his will.—*Standard*.

THE QUEEN'S VISIT TO MENTONE.

The statement has been made, apparently with a political motive, that the Queen's projected visit to Mentone is suggested by failing health, occasioned by political anxiety, and especially by distress as to the state of Ireland. Our readers will hear with satisfaction that there is no foundation for this representation with regard either to the mental or physical condition of the Queen. No one can wonder that the Queen should desire to exchange a few days of the bleak and gloomy weather of an English spring for the bright sunshine and clear air of the Riviera. A residence at Mentone, such as the Court Circular announces that her Majesty intends to make, after Easter, is till the second week of April, will cut out, as it were, the very core of our season of easterly winds and March dust, and diminish the discomforts of a British winter in a sensible degree. The Queen mentions her intention of preserving a strict incognito during her stay abroad, and no doubt the deliberate sincerity of this resolve will be recognised by all foreign authorities and carefully carried out. Were it otherwise the little tour could scarcely be looked upon as a refreshing or restful holiday. The wish to escape from winter, which though always loyal and respectful may be often very troublesome and tiring, is probably one of the Queen's motives for taking a holiday abroad. There are others suf-

ciently conceivable, however, even to persons who possess Highland castles and villas by the shores of southern England. The complete change of climate supplies a tonic not to be obtained by Britons within the bounds of their own four seas. The change may not be from cold to warmth. On the contrary, it is probable England has during the present remarkable winter enjoyed an average higher temperature than many wintering places in the South of Europe. But the brightness of the sunshine, the clearness of the air, they enjoy are something quite unfamiliar in our beloved island. They are enough in themselves to animate the spirit and excite the mind. They make physical exercise a joy, mere existence a pleasure. There is something to be said with truth against every individual town or village on the south line of the French coast. Cannes and Mentone are dull, and have only lately freed themselves from sanitary suspicion. Nice is not dull, but neither is it safe for invalids, from a climatic point of view, owing to its exposure to cold winds. Monaco is wicked, but whatever their defects as points of residence may be, the enchanting roads which wander from one to the other cause them all to be forgotten. If Monaco be wicked, it is with the wickedness of paradise. Nature has done such wonders there, man has not been able to deface them. On the surface, indeed, he has co-operated with her as far as in him lay to produce a perfect result. More lovely gardens are not to be found than those from which the visitor may survey some of the loveliest sea views in Europe. He needs not gamble, though it has been hinted that those guests at the big hotel are most welcome who most risk their luck at the tables. He is provided with admirable reading-rooms and delightful concerts. Under it all squirms the serpent, but a residence of a week or two will not hurt the tenderest conscience. A delightful excursion, not very well-known or very often made, is out to the end of the promontory of Antibes. The view thence is exactly the reverse of that from San Carlo. The coast line right and left divides the blue sea from the lovely green shores in curving lines, the vine and olive-clad hills slope gently upwards crowned with their rock-built villages, and behind all rise the snowy Maritime Alps, looking as if they stood there to guard their Italy, which they have not known how to guard. That view is one which remains indelible in the memory. The man who should travel blindfold there and back again from the heart of a London fog, allowed to gaze and fix it on his heart for the space of half an hour, would not have paid too dearly for his gain. No, it may not be gained for the heaven of the Kingdom of Heaven, but it is a very good thing to go away from in the winter and early spring. It is for English people at any rate (and for some Americans) the best place in the world to live in, but not just at this time of year. What it might be if we consumed our own smoke in another sense from personal consumption of it down our throats is another thing. We in the big towns might then see the sun at other times than in the height of summer, we might know the sky was blue on more exact authority than the assertion of the poets, we might have the nightingales back in London, we might escape the rasping sore throat now threatening to be national and chronic. But even then we should miss much that the journey to Mentone will find, and find this year, we trust, in even more abundant abundance. The soft refreshing air, the brilliant sunbeams, the vegetation almost tropical in character and luxuriance, the sea bluer, sweeter, calmer than that even which washes our fair Devonshire or Cornwall coasts—all these have a power to soothe and charm peculiar to themselves. Joined to complete abandonment of work, release from responsibility, and cessation from tedious ceremonial, they will, as is the nation's cordial hope, give the Queen the perfect rest and enjoyment they offer to the open eyes and disengaged mind.—*Daily News*.

POLITICAL AND SOCIAL ITEMS.

(FROM THE "STANDARD.")

The Queen has been pleased to signify her intention of conferring on Lord Salisbury the honour of the Knighthood of the Order of St. Patrick, in the room of the late Lord Lurgan. We believe that a large number of members on the Liberal side of the House object to the Rule regarding the closing of Debate, for the reason that it would enable the Government to induce the House to make it less stringent in its character. Information has been received that Mr. Fottrell, the Solicitor to the Irish Land Commission, who was responsible for the issue of the sample to which attention has been drawn in these columns, has resigned his office. The bills referring to the Channel Tunnel will, we understand, be referred to the Special Committee, partly nominated by the Executive and partly by the Committee of Selection. It is expected that the Committee will take evidence on the military part of the question.

(FROM THE "DAILY NEWS.")

In connection with the new rules which Mr. Gladstone will submit to the House of Commons on Monday next, we learn that Mr. Ashton Dilke intends to move that the Committee of Selection be empowered to propose that the number of members shall deal respectively with Irish and Scotch questions, and with the Budget. Sir George Campbell has already given notice of a Committee for Scotland, and Mr. Dilwyn will also probably propose the appointment of a Budget or Financial Committee. If the House agrees to the Prime Minister's resolution appointing Standing Committees, it is, we believe, intended to find accommodation for them by causing two committees upstairs to be temporarily thrown into one by means of a movable partition. It will be observed that the rules of procedure of which Mr. Gladstone has given notice makes no provision for dealing with the modern extension of what is known as the question-hour. It is probable that an attempt will be made to remedy this omission by an amendment. Another matter left unprovided for is the practice of vexatious counting, which so often as the session has gone has been of high importance. The House will also be called to this matter by an amendment, moved by a private member. We understand that the Home Secretary does not intend to introduce this session a Water Bill for the metropolis. This will be a matter for consideration after the passing of a measure for the reform of Metropolitan Government.

The President of the Board of Trade will not move for leave to introduce the Bankruptcy Bill till after the new rules of procedure have been disposed of. Nor will any other Ministerial measures in the meantime be advanced.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—THURSDAY.

The LORD CHANCELLOR took his seat on the woolsack shortly before five o'clock.

THE LAND COMMISSION AND THE OATH.

LORD LONGFORD moved for a copy of a letter addressed to him by the Secretary of the Irish Land Commission, in explanation of the circumstances in which the pamphlet entitled "How to become the owner of your farm," was printed at the Queen's printing office, Dublin. In doing so he took occasion to condemn some of the notices issued by the Land Commission.

LORD MONCK, from a long knowledge of the Secretary of the Irish Land Commission, bore testimony to that gentleman's general efficiency in the public service.

LORD CARLISLE said there would be no objection to the production of the letter, but a correspondence for which he intended to move would put the House in much fuller possession of all the circumstances relating to the publication of "How to become the owner of your farm."

The motion was agreed to.

THE JEWS IN RUSSIA.

The Duke of Somerset asked whether the Secretary of State could communicate to the House any recent information relating to the treatment of the Jews in Russia.

LORD GRANVILLE thought it hardly necessary to claim for the Government of which he was a member that they sympathized with the Jews, and that they sympathized with the latter in their oppression wherever the latter might be found, and it was needless to say that their sympathy would not be less in a case in which the victims were of the Jewish race; but as to diplomatic interference by us in such a matter, he was sure that no such interference by any other Power in reference to British subjects. However, putting aside the question of right, he did not think that anything could be more inexpedient than official interference. As to private and confidential representations, he was sure that no one in the place of Foreign Minister would omit any suitable opportunity of making them; but public comments on those representations would, of course, entirely change their character. Our consuls had communicated the facts which had come to their knowledge, and he now begged to lay on the table a copy of correspondence connected with those outrages.

LORD SALISBURY concurred with the Secretary for Foreign Affairs in thinking that official representations as to these outrages would be of great service, and he was of opinion that the few words said on the subject that evening would do good in the cause of the oppressed Jews.

Their Lordships adjourned at 10 minutes to 6 o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—THURSDAY.

The Speaker took the chair at four o'clock.

THE RULES OF PROCEDURE.

SIR S. NORTHCOTE gave notice that when the Prime Minister's Resolutions regarding the Procedure of the House he shall oppose the first, which relates to the *Closure*.

On the same subject, Mr. SEXTON gave notice that before the debate began he would move a "call of the House." Mr. A. Balfour gave notice that he will move to defer the *Closure* resolution until the others are disposed of. Mr. Marriott, from the Liberal benches, gave notice that he will move a counter resolution declaring that no rule will be satisfactory which closes debate by a bare majority.

HONOURS AND APPOINTMENTS.

In answer to Mr. Broadbent, Mr. GLADSTONE stated that Her Majesty has been pleased to confer the rank of Privy Counsellor on Sir H. Robinson, and also to create Sir E. Wood a G.C.M.G. and Sir H. de Villiers a K.C.M.G. In addition to these honours, the dignity of a G.C.M.G. has been accepted by President Andrieux, subject to the consent of the Volskard.

THE OUTRAGES ON THE JEWS IN RUSSIA.

In answer to a question from Mr. Serjeant Simon, Mr. GLADSTONE said the Government did not think it would be expedient to make any formal representation to the Russian Government on the Jews; and in answer to Sir J. Hay, who suggested the constitutional alternative of dissolution or resignation, he said the Government did not intend to take any steps in regard to the division of Tuesday.

THE ADDRESS.

The adjourned debate on Mr. P. J. Smyth's Home Rule amendment to the Address was resumed by Mr. Dawson, who, speaking as the Lord Mayor of Dublin, pointed out the inconveniences of the present system, and was continued by Mr. T. D. Sullivan, who declared that law and order would never prevail in Ireland until the Irish people made their own laws. Mr. Molloy went into details of the system which the Home Rule party desired to substitute for the present connexion between the two countries, and described the manner in which local affairs would be confided to the Irish Parliament and Imperial matters to the Parliament in London, without impairing the integrity of the Government. Mr. O'Sullivan stated that there would be no rest in Ireland until it was converted from a province into a nation.

At this point Mr. P. J. SMYTH offered to withdraw his amendment, but the Irish members would not permit this; and Mr. GLADSTONE, after expressing his regret at this refusal, said, with regard to local self-government in Ireland, the Government, while they had been reluctantly compelled to postpone the measure they had contemplated on the subject, were still ready to take any steps to the wider question of a separate Legislature, he remarked that the discussion had revealed great discrepancies between the supporters of the movement as to what its real object was, and he advised them that their very first step must be to make up their minds as to how and by what authority the functions of the two Legislatures were to be defined, and local distinguished from Imperial matters.

Mr. M. HENRY thought that the difficulties would not turn out to be so great as they seemed to be. Mr. Gladstone would give his mind to them; and Mr. O'Donnell remarked that, however formidable the objections to Home Rule might be, they were not so great as the objections to the present system. Home Rule did not involve separation, for the Irish meant only to have local self-government for themselves, but to get their share in the government of the English and Scotch.

Mr. EWART protested that the Imperial connection with their lives, and Mr. Plunket protested against the Prime Minister's invitation to the Irish members to reopen the Home Rule agitation.

Mr. SEXTON made a bitter personal attack on Mr. Ewart and Mr. Plunket, and thanked the Prime Minister for showing the Irish members to be the cause of the English people of the justice and practicability of their scheme. The amendment was then negatived by 93 to 37.

Mr. MC CARTHY next moved an amendment of great length, setting forth the action of the Irish Executive under the Coercion Acts, and concluding with a declaration that an immediate abandonment of all coercive measures and the establishment of Constitutional Government in Ireland are essentially necessary for the peace and prosperity of the United Kingdom. Dealing chiefly with the arrest of Mr. Parnell, he read numerous extracts from his speeches since the prorogation to show that he had never advocated the non-payment of rent, nor the rejection of the Land Act. On the contrary, he had recommended that it should be tested; he had used his influence to bring about a revocation of order; and in reference to the "prairie value," for which he had been so much censured, Mr. McCarthy showed that it was borrowed from a speech of Mr. Bright. Considering how the Irish people had been deceived by the Liberal party, it was no wonder that there should be discontent approaching even to disaffection in Ireland, and by suppressing the Land League and arresting its principal members the Government had deprived themselves of the most potent means of preserving order, and were responsible for all that had occurred since.

Mr. W. E. FORSTER commenced his defence of his administration by confessing that he had been compelled to put his exceptional powers into execution more largely than he had expected, but he had no order, and unless he had been prepared to allow the country to drift into a condition of excitement which might have led to civil war. He also read extracts from Mr. Parnell's speeches, which he contended proved that his designs were not so harmless as Mr. McCarthy had represented. It was not, however, for the advice which he had given that Mr. Parnell was arrested, but for the means taken to enforce it, the intimidation, boycotting, outrages, and murders by which the Land League coerced the people to conform to their orders. Of these practices Mr. Forster related some striking instances, contending that as they could not be punished by the ordinary law, the Government were driven to these arrests, unless they were prepared to allow the Land League to become the real government of Ireland. He admitted that he had been some- what lax in dealing with Mr. Parnell's intentions, but as soon as he felt convinced in his conscience that that gentleman was guilty of inciting to intimidation he advised the arrests. As to the "reasonable practices," though he believed that an organized attempt to substitute private Courts for the Queen's Courts was a reasonable practice, the arrests on that head were made because of speeches which, if permitted to go on, would have brought about a state of feeling certain to end in civil war. In the same manner the Land League was suppressed as a dangerous organization, and that its members were guilty of intimidation. Of these reasonable practices, and of the acts of violence by which the "No rent" manifesto was enforced, Mr. Forster gave the House numerous specimens; and passing to the present situation he expressed his confident belief that things were getting better. Landlords were collecting their rents; farmers were finding out that they had been misled by the Land League; and juries were doing their duty. At the same time, the signs of improvement were not sufficient to justify any relaxation of vigilance or to permit the release of the prisoners. At the close of his speech Mr. Forster made some remarks in vindication of the Land Act, which, he said, was beginning to have an effect; and in justifying the character and general conduct of the late Co-Commissioners, he expressed a very decided opinion that the rents in Ireland had turned out to be larger than the House anticipated when the Act was under discussion.

The debate was adjourned on the motion of Mr. E. H. Balfour, who moved the season of the year to be observed on the 10th of February, and that the House should be closed at 10 minutes to 3 o'clock.

COURT AND FASHIONABLE NEWS.

OSBORNE, THURSDAY.

The Queen and Princess Beatrice drove out yesterday afternoon, attended by the Dowager and Duchess of Roxburgh, and her Majesty walked and drove this morning with the Princess. The Earl of Kenmare, K.P., Lord Chamberlain, arrived at Osborne to-day, and had an audience of the Queen at 11 o'clock. The Queen's presence at Osborne was the subject of the Speech from the Throne. Mrs. Drummond of Megginch arrived at Osborne yesterday, and had the honour of dining with her Majesty. The Hon. Frances Drummond has succeeded the Hon. Ethel Cadogan as Maid of Honour in Waiting.

According to present arrangements says the *Morning Post*, the Queen, accompanied by Princess Beatrice, will sail at Portsmouth about March 15, in the steam yacht *Victoria* and *Albert*, and, escorted by the *Alberta* tender, *Enchantress*, *Admiralty* yacht, and the *Galatea*, Trinity House yacht, proceed to Cherbourg, whence the journey will be completed by special train. The Queen's journey will be the middle of April, to enable her Majesty to be in England on the marriage of Prince Leopold, Duke of Albany.

The Prince and Princess of Wales, attended by Lady Emily Kingscote and the Hon. F. Tyrwhitt Wilson, went to Windsor on Thursday morning to visit the Duke and Duchess of Connaught at Windsor Castle. The Prince and Princess remained to luncheon, and returned to London in the afternoon.

A Court correspondent says: "The Duchess of Connaught has benefited by the change from Bagshot to Windsor Castle. Although still weak, her health has much improved, and her Royal Highness continues to progress favourably towards convalescence."

The *Lancet* says: "We understand that the Duchess of Connaught's sudden removal on Sunday from Bagshot to Windsor was in consequence of the unsatisfactory state of the sanitary arrangements at Bagshot Park. For some weeks very offensive smells have been observed about the house, and it is believed that the Duchess has suffered from obscure forms of indisposition. Her Royal Highness had made an excellent convalescence for nearly three weeks after her confinement, when she developed symptoms which were thought to depend on poisoning by sewer gas. On investigation it was found that a large soil-pipe from a disused closet had been simply cut through by a careless workman, and its open end, leading directly into the main drain, was left immediately under the flooring close to the central hall, and thus a continuous stream of gas was poured into the house. Dr. Playfair advised that her Royal Highness should be removed to Windsor without delay, to get her out of the infected atmosphere. On Sunday Sir William Jenner met him in consultation by her Majesty's command, and, completely concurring in this view, the removal was at once effected. Happily a very decided improvement in her Royal Highness's condition is already apparent, and her symptoms no longer cause serious anxiety."

The Marquis and Marchioness of Bath and family arrived at their residence in Berkeley-square on Thursday, from Longleat, Wiltshire.

The Earl and Countess of Erne arrived at their residence in Eaton-square on Thursday, from Crom Castle, Newton Butler, Ireland.

The Earl and Countess of Darley have left their residence in Hill-street, Berkeley-square, for Cobham Hall, Kent.

Earl and Countess Granville had a dinner party at their residence on Carlton-house-terrace on Wednesday night. Afterwards Lady Granville had a small and early reception.

Earl Bathurst has left town for Cirencester House, Cirencester.

The *Morning Post* says that the Earl of Weymouth, according to a private letter, received on Thursday afternoon from Melton Mowbray, was, since his release on Tuesday last, not worse, but his lordship is very weak from the confinement to his bed. Lord Wiltton has been suffering more or less from the

gout since the 15th of last month. No bulletin or telegraphic statement has been issued at his lordship's house in Grosvenor-square. Inquiries from the members of the Royal Family and many personal friends have been made, but no further information was obtained. Six years ago Lord Wiltton, then in London, was for several weeks in a critical condition, and then suffered from extreme debility, but he pulled through, and his friends hope that he may do so now. It was stated at an inquiry at Egerton Lodge, Melton Mowbray, at a late hour on Thursday night, that the Earl of Wiltton was still in a very critical condition, though he had regained strength to some extent. Altogether there was a decided improvement.

Lord and Lady Tenterden entertained at dinner on Wednesday last, at their residence in Portland-place, his Excellency the German Ambassador, his Excellency the Austrian Ambassador and Countess Karolyi, Count Herbert Bismarck, Earl and Countess of Derby and Lady Margaret Cecil, Earl of Redesdale, the Prime Minister, Mrs. and Miss Redesdale, Lord and Lady Sudley, the Right Hon. G. J. Goschen, M.P., and Mrs. Goschen, Sir Arthur Hayter, M.P., and Lady Hayter, Hon. Miss Abbott, Mrs. Maxwell, and Mr. Sandeson. Lady Tenterden afterwards had a reception, which was attended by the Ambassadors and leading members of the House of Commons, and by a numerous and fashionable assembly.

The Bishop of Peterborough is indisposed, and has been compelled to leave Leicester, where a Church mission is being held.

The marriage of Hon. Arthur Henniker, Colonel-in-Chief, and Hon. Frances Milnes will take place shortly after Easter.

The death is announced of the Hon. Douglas Edward Holroyd, brother of the Earl of Sheffield. The deceased gentleman has been staying at Brighton for the last few months, and succumbed yesterday to an attack of paralysis from which he had been suffering. He was 48 years of age.

THE PERSECUTION OF THE JEWS IN RUSSIA.

The following pastoral has been issued by Dr. Adler, the Chief Rabbi:—"Beloved Brethren, a persecution, great and terrible has come upon the members of the house of Israel in Russia, and their tribulation is great. In many places they have lost all their substance; in others their lives have become the prey of their enemies; deeds of violence have been committed on defenceless children. The laws of their country, from which they expected protection, have been powerless to save them from the fury of the populace, and thus our brethren in that land are not only overwhelmed with past misfortunes, but tremble at the prospect of what may yet come upon them. Many have taken to flight, escaping with naught but their lives. This pitiable tale of woe has reached these shores, and has moved the hearts of our Christian fellow-countrymen to lift up their voice in solemn protest against such outrages and oppression. They have also given utterance to their sympathy in words aglow with brotherly love and tender pity. And with the fruit of their lips they have brought the gift of their hands for the relief of suffering. Verily the memory of their words and actions is numbered by the angels of heaven, and will pass away from us and our children for ever. For the hope is kindled within us that these words will take wing and will reach the heart of the Ruler of Russia and his counsellors, so that they will have compassion upon the oppressed and that they will endeavour to effect the release of their brethren without trying to help them? How can we, whose lines have fallen in pleasant places, bear to hear of the sufferings of those who are without home and shelter, without aid and bread, and forced to open wide their hands to assist them? Surely you are still, as ever, a nation of mercy. In mercy, then, hearken to the cry of suffering, and hasten to answer it. Say not the evil is distant; we will shut our ears, because the cry comes from afar off; but, thinking God that such is the way to answer you and from your homes prove the greatness of your gratitude by the greatness of your help. And may the Lord vouchsafe to you His blessing and establish the work of your hands."

PERSONATING NOBLEMEN.—At the Birmingham police-court on Thursday, Mary Jane Fearnoux, who gave her age as 43, but declared to be only 20 years of age, was charged with obtaining by fraud various sums of money, amounting in the aggregate to between £6,000 and £7,000. The prisoner, who had been brought from Liverpool the previous evening, sat in a Newmarket carriage, which gave her a somewhat masculine appearance, though she is of slender figure. Mr. Rigby, for the prosecution, said the prisoner was charged with obtaining large sums of money by various frauds, and with falsely representing herself to be the wife of Lord Arthur Clinton, and, at another, the Earl of Lanesborough. The frauds extended over a period of some seven or eight years. They had been very ingeniously accomplished—so much so, indeed, that the prosecutor, Mr. Beynon, could scarcely be persuaded that she was a woman. In conjunction with a man named Gething, who had been brought up on the previous day, she had obtained some £2,000 from Mr. Beynon, and large sums from Mr. Screen and several other people. The prisoner was remanded to the workhouse, and was to be brought back to the court on Friday next.

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say too much. Mrs. Ward believed the prisoner's story, and advanced money from time to time on the faith of the representations. She also introduced "his lordship" to several of her relations, who were desirous of lending money. Mrs. Ward and her sister, Mrs. Drew, state that they introduced the woman to Gething, who is their brother, and that he introduced her to Mr. Beynon, from whom she obtained £2,000, and to Mr. Screen, from whom she obtained £3,000 by various instalments, giving as "securities" what purported to be valuable deeds and letters from Lord Coleridge, whom she represented as her trustee. During the time that she was borrowing the money, she nearly always dressed as a man "in the height of fashion," with gaiters, lavender kid gloves, and walking stick. In this costume she gained the affection of two young ladies, one of whom became deranged on discovering the fraud and had to be placed in an asylum, where she is still confined. When unable to obtain further loans, Fearnoux took a situation as a governess at Casemere Farm, near Birmingham, but received notice to leave, in the belief that she was a man. She afterwards took a situation as attendant at Prestwick Asylum, Manchester, but did not remain long. When arrested she was living with her mother, at 4, Grogson-street, Liverpool, and was dressed in feminine attire. During the journey, she several times complained of illness, and wanted to be taken to a light, but no notice was taken of the request, which was believed to be only a part of an attempt to escape.

A WEST AFRICAN TOWN BURNED.—*English and French Forces Plundered.*—Information has just reached Liverpool of the destruction by fire of the town of Fourcariah, West Africa. The natives, after burning the town, plundered the British factories in the neighbourhood, also a French factory. Several of the owners of the factories and their clerks were missing, and it was feared they had been killed.

ANOTHER WARRANT AGAINST LORD HUNTLY.—At the Mansion House on Thursday Mr. Besley, barrister, attended before the Lord Mayor for the purpose of the presentation of a petition for a warrant to be issued against Lord Huntly, who had neglected to appear in response to a summons which had been granted against him requiring him to appear at that court to answer a charge of obtaining over £2,000 by false pretences. Mr. Besley, Mr. Nicholson. The matter, it will be remembered, has been several times before the court, and the application had been adjourned from time to time in order that the defendant might appear. Mr. Besley now said that, seeing that the summons of the court had been disregarded, he had applied to the Lord Mayor to issue a warrant against the defendant in the ordinary way. The Lord Mayor at once said that he should grant the application, and ordered a warrant to be issued.

TRADE ENTERPRISE IN CHINA.—It is not a little flattering to England, the *Building and Engineering Times* thinks, that among the many marked changes the Chinese as a nation have introduced in recent years, are the arsenals and gun factories and their steam navigation are manifestly borrowed from English ideas, and their enterprise in the matter of coal mining was started originally by an English mining engineer. This work is purely a Government affair, was undertaken in 1876, and is now prosecuted in two distinct districts, one at Keelung, Island of Formosa, and the other at Kailang near Tientsin, North China. The English system was supported by a staff of only eight or ten foreign workmen. The ordinary mining engines and apparatus in use at home are employed. Much complaint was at first made by the engineer of the difficulty in getting the consent of the superintending native officials to extra expenditure or alteration, even when he considered it imperative, but under a change of management things seem to work more smoothly. The output has increased from 14,000 tons in 1878 to nearly 30,000 for the first six months of last year, and with one or two more shafts it might be increased to 500 tons a day. One other industry which the Chinese have adopted from Western ideas is the woollen factory, which is carried on by the aid of machinery imported from England, but not to any great extent. An unsuccessful attempt has been made also to bore petroleum wells in Formosa. These enterprises certainly are not numerous, but considering what China was as a nation within the memory of even young men of the present generation, they show, at least, that the *vis inertia* of the huge masses in that country is beginning to wear off, and that before long we may expect to see China an active and progressive nation.

FUNERAL OF SIR WILLIAM PALMER.—The remains of Sir William Palmer, late of the 18th Hussars, inventor of the well-known Palmer's revolver, were interred yesterday in Brompton Cemetery. Shortly before twelve o'clock the funeral cortege, consisting of an open car drawn by four horses in deeply fringed black housings, two mourning coaches, and several private carriages, started from the residence of the deceased, Earl's-court-square, and reached the cemetery at half-past noon. Amongst the mourners were Mr. John Palmer, C.M.G., of Comeragh, County Waterford, Captain Wray Palmer, R.N., Captain Edward Palmer, late 7th Hussars, Captain Henry Palmer, late 11th Hussars, and Sir William Palmer, late 18th Hussars, Major Adagh, R.E., C.B., and a large number of old brother officers, including many from the War Office, the India Office, and the Horse Guards. There were also present a considerable number of ladies, the majority carrying floral wreaths and crosses, and many personal friends and acquaintances, conspicuous among whom were Sir Henry James, the Attorney-General, colleague of the deceased in the representation of Taunton, and Sir John Hay. But the most remarkable feature in the crowd collected was a large number of working men from the estate of the deceased at Baron's Court, whose presence testified to the esteem in which the late Sir William Palmer was held by those in his employment. The mortuary chapel was done up for the occasion in the most remarkable manner, the Rev. John Henry Cardwell, vicar of Saint Andrew's, Fulham. The coffin, of polished oak with brass mountings, bore the inscription:—"Major Sir William Palmer, C.B., M.P. Died 4th February 1882, aged 51 years." As it was laid in the private mausoleum, where already rested the ashes of the deceased's eldest son, it was strewn with floral tributes of sorrowful affection.

FIRE AT THE ALBERT HALL.—About six o'clock on Wednesday evening a fire broke out in the refreshment department of the Albert Hall, South Kensington.

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LONDON. FEBRUARY 11-12, 1882.

MR. GLADSTONE'S RESOLUTIONS

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Looking at the question in a broad way, urges the *Statist*, such as becomes all who prefer the efficiency of Parliament to the interest of party, we see no reason why the *clature* should not be adopted. It is admitted upon all hands that Parliament has been falling in the estimation of the public; that the conduct of business is not good, and that the interests of the country are suffering because it has no time to devote to measures which are useful, but not partisan; such, for example, as the Criminal Code Bill and the Bankruptcy Bill. We do not deny that at times the *clature* may work injuriously in the hands of a rash or a reactionary Ministry. It may be used to bring forward Parliamentary Bills which would be condemned were they brought given time to consider them. For example, in the case of a disagreement with a foreign State, it is possible that some step might be

THE FRENCH MONEY MARKET.

FOOLS AND THEIR MONEY.

“HOW TO ROB YOUR LANDLORD.”

ARRIVAL OF REFUGEE JEWS IN ENGLAND.

ECHOES OF THE WEEK.

out of the evil perpetrated by the frantic iconoclast of St. Paul's-churchyard. Bird's

COURT AND FASHIONABLE NEWS.

THE CHANNEL TUNNEL SCHEME.

THE NEW MEMBER FOR WESTMINSTER.

THE EXTRAORDINARY FRAUDS BY A WOMAN

gaol on the 2d inst. Including the time he was awaiting trial he was in prison fifteen months. It is stated that at the trial the Liverpool police were in possession of the particulars, supplied from Birmingham,

CLIMATE IN TOWN AND COUNTRY.—Professo

THE ADMINISTRATION OF CLUB BUSINESS 143

RELIEF TO LOCAL TAXATION. The Govern-

ment Scheme.—The *Liverpool Mercury* has the following observations on the subject of the proposed scheme, which it is in a position to give some particulars respecting the Government scheme for the relief of local taxation. It says:—"The exact nature of the Imperial relief to local authorities of the kind proposed, and the necessities of that portion of Imperial revenue presently derived from what are ordinarily known as 'establishment licences.' These include the duties at present paid on carriages, dogs, servants, armorial bearings, and the like, which are levied on the holders of the duties derived from gun and game licences. The original idea of the Treasury extended only to dog licences. Owing to the trouble of collecting this revenue, especially in Ireland, it has for a long time been contemplated to throw the profit and responsibility of collecting the same on the local authorities. The idea enlarged itself by degrees, and at length the proposal to throw over the other licences mentioned in the same way found ready acceptance. That portion of the revenue is not greatly considerable, but the proposal. It means a change of collectors. Possibly it may entail some change the incidents of charge. To the public at large, to the man who does not ride in a brougham, who does not pride himself on the number of dogs he keeps, who has no tastes or means do not extend to the carriages, lackeys on the one hand or to canine companions on the other, the measure will have a closer and more immediate significance. Speaking in round numbers, and taking the estimate that that that the revenue from the licences to the extent of £1,300,000 annually." It is possible, the Liverpool paper thinks, that the changes above indicated may be but part of a general policy by-and-by to be more fully developed. "Broadly speaking the revenue from the licences will be the main source of items of excise, customs, stamps, taxation, post-office, without seeking adventures from other sources. This would leave the Government free to hand over the whole licensing revenue of a country in support of the Government and economy, leaving nothing out this idea its logical conclusion, it is easy to follow Mr. John Bright in his Glasnevin duodecimo when he spoke of buying of the licensed interest in surplus public-house by the sale of the revenue these licenses yielded, and if over and over again the same has been stated it is more than likely that this will be the basis of solution."

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Great Britain.

LONDON, FEBRUARY 12-13, 1882.

WEAK POINTS OF THE CLOTURE.

It has been the uniform custom of English Ministers when the procedure of the House of Commons has been in question, to take the leaders of the Opposition into council and to obtain for any new rules the sanction of both parties. Mr. Bright upbraided Lord Beaconsfield's Government in 1878 for entering the European Conference with shotted guns. It is with a parade of force that the Ministry are about to lay before Parliament the most remarkable innovations in procedure that have ever been proposed. When the project of the *cloture* began to assume a practical form in Ministerial speeches during the autumn, more than one Minister intimated that it would be made a question of confidence. Mr. Gladstone, however, did not commit himself to any such position, nor was it conceivable that a statesman of his long experience and his Parliamentary training would be ready to withdraw from the free judgment of the House of Commons proposals deeply affecting the character and the future of the representative system. This, however, must be so, if the Prime Minister's scheme of *cloture* is to be forced upon the House of Commons by the menace of a dissolution. The doubts and anxieties which are gathering will not be extinguished, though they may be overcome. It is, indeed, manifest that the changes contemplated by the proposed plan for closing debates must be far wider in their operation than is admitted by their opponents. It is assumed that should the resolution pass, we shall have to deal simply with the existing state of things modified by the *cloture*, under the control of the present Speaker and the present leader of the House. But this is a period of transition which must soon come to an end. It may be confidently anticipated that Sir Henry Brand will use whatever powers may be intrusted to him with scrupulous impartiality and in harmony with the traditions of his office. But he has held the Speakership for over ten years, and his powers have been severely tested by the fatigue of the present stormy Parliament. It is probable that not later than the beginning of next Session the House of Commons will have to elect a new Speaker. Nor is this all. Mr. Gladstone will complete during the current Session the fiftieth year of his Parliamentary service, and his retirement from the active conduct of affairs in the Lower House cannot be long delayed. We are close upon a time when Parliament, if subjected to the new rule and governed in its spirit, will find no anchorage in the experience and the traditions either of the leader of the House or the Speaker. To what, then, are we to look forward? The moral effect of the proposed scheme of *cloture*—especially if it be carried, as it can only be carried, by coercing the House with the threat of a penal dissolution—will make itself felt in the first instance in the election of the new Speaker. It is impossible that the spirit of domination, encountered and sharpened by the spirit of resistance, should not give a strong party bias to the choice of the majority. A Speaker so chosen is too likely to be in accord with the temper of those who elect him, and to act in the Chair as a *Président de Combat*. He will understand that he is chosen to give effect to the rule of *cloture* in the letter and in the spirit. The disappearance of Mr. Gladstone from the Treasury Bench will leave the Liberal party unguided by any predominant authority, and it is plain enough that power will tend to be concentrated in the "machine." Mr. Auberon Herbert drew an amusing picture some time ago of the manner in which the political "holograph" manufactures, reproduces, and multiplies "public opinion." The demand for the *cloture* would be reverberated, whenever it suited the Government of the day, from a hundred organs, inspired by local causes, and set going by wire from Westminster or Birmingham. Such a system would inspire no confidence and would be met with the most obstinate resistance. The bitterest part passions would be let loose. Moderate men would be forced to give up the conduct of the Opposition and every Parliamentary struggle would become an internecine battle without quarter and without truce. Even in the present Session, while so many moderating influences are still present, it is difficult to see how, for the most limited and temporary purposes, the new rule could be effectively put in force. If it were to be agreed upon in accordance with Parliamentary comity between the leaders of both parties the Opposition would not be able to refuse to act up to its spirit and to join in closing debate when the question at issue had been excessively discussed and the continuation of the debate was becoming a public injury. But, coerced and outvoted, the Conservatives will feel in every case that they are acting under duress and menace and that they are under no obligation to the triumphant and overbearing majority. Many dissatisfied Liberals, whether they vote against the *cloture* or not, will be influenced in the same way. They will be disposed to show the Speaker as often as the possible and as long as possible that the "evident sense" of the House is not in favour of closing debate. It is, indeed, most doubtful whether, under the new rule, the Speaker could in practice be able

to raise the question of *cloture* at all, except by straining the language of the resolution in a party sense. It would be certainly a forced interpretation to construe the evident sense of the House as the evident wish of the majority; yet the rule plainly allows this to be done and, according to its advocates, intends it to be done.—Times.

THE INSURRECTION IN ARABIA.

The present insurrection in the Arabian province of Yemen threatens to assume serious proportions, and to prove the cause of some trouble and embarrassment to the Turkish Government. A few days ago it was hoped that the worst was known, and that the rising would be promptly suppressed; but the latest news is to the effect that the disaffection has spread beyond the limits of the Vilayet of Yemen, and broken out among the tribes of the Hejaz, between Mecca and Medina. The latter city is garrisoned by only a small force, which is said to be virtually blockaded. Nothing can be done towards the restoration of order, it is admitted, until the arrival of large reinforcements from Turkey, and even the four battalions and guns sent ten days ago will hardly suffice to more than free Medina from the presence of those who are now menacing it. Although the danger at Medina is urgent, that arising from the defiant attitude of the tribes of Yemen is in reality the more serious. It is also the recurrence of an oft-encountered peril which has at times tasked the strength of the Ottoman Empire so greatly that the Porte has more than once given up the idea of successfully dealing with it. Yemen is the South-west Province of Arabia, and includes within its limits the city of Mocha. The inhabitants are among the most warlike of the Arab tribes, and they have always aspired to maintain their independence of the Sultan, partly on account of their disbelief in his claims to represent the Caliphate, and partly because they preferred a life of unfettered liberty in their own mountainous home. In the year 1635 they emancipated themselves from the Turkish yoke, and were ruled for nearly two centuries and a half by their own Sheikhs. The Turks were obliged to satisfy themselves during that long period with the military occupation of the three Holy Cities, but the caravans of pilgrims from Jeddah to Mecca had repeatedly to fight their way through marauding bands in order to visit the Prophet's Shrine. The establishment of British power at Aden, followed by the occupation of Perim, aroused considerable alarm in the Sultan's advisers as to the security of their hold on the three cities, which alone made the decrees of the Ottoman Sultan pass current throughout the world of Islam. This anxiety might not, perhaps, have led to action on the part of the Porte; but, at this very conjuncture, an Arab Chief committed an outrage that could not be overlooked or pardoned. The Emir of Asir, a district north of Yemen, marched south and seized the harbour of Hodeidah, and thus isolated the small garrison stationed at Mocha. An army was at once sent from Constantinople to punish the offender, and his own territory was rapidly overrun and subjected. Glad of so good an excuse, the Porte then ordered its troops to march into the southern district of Yemen, and to reduce it to obedience. Ghazi Mukhtar, then a lieutenant general, was entrusted with the task, and, despite the valour of the Arabs, the strength of their forts, and the inclemency of the climate, he was completely successful. Within twelve months of his landing at Hodeidah, Yemen was again reduced to the condition of a province of the Sultan, but the expedition involved the sacrifice of four thousand Turkish soldiers. The origin of the present insurrection is not clearly ascertained, but the natives were, no doubt, greatly encouraged to make an attempt to reassert their independence by the large withdrawal of Turkish troops that took place at the time of the war with Russia. Nor are the objects they have before them much better known, although it is possible that the impulse which has stirred them into action comes from the Nejed Chief, who during these last few years has been gathering into his hands the nucleus of a considerable power.—Standard.

THE RELATIONS BETWEEN GERMANY AND RUSSIA.

The Berlin correspondent of the *Daily News* telegraphed on Sunday night:—Although the semi-official papers have taken great trouble of late to deny the statements previously made that the friendly relations between Germany and Russia have been threatened, still reports of an alarming character have been circulated here during the last two days. It is stated that difficulties of a diplomatic nature have occurred between Germany and Russia and Austria. I have been assured from fairly good quarters that as far as Germany is concerned, these reports are not true. Still, as a daily reader of the German Press and a diligent follower of the politics of the day, military and otherwise, I have no doubt that there is something in the air which smokes most unpleasantly of the Gower. The Germans of course want peace; but should troubles break out, they consider themselves certain of assistance from Austria. This may appear a rash statement to make, but it is nevertheless true. Ever since Prince Bismarck's visit to Vienna, Austria has been taken in tow by Germany and the German press. Any offence which the Russians may give to Austria rebounds with double force on Germany. The Berlin press publishes articles against Russia which become day by day more important. It is stated that the meeting of the Emperor at Danzig last autumn has produced no results of importance. It is generally assumed here that Russia's enmity is at present particularly directed against Austria. Germany, of course, is entirely innocent of any desire to mix herself up in the affair, but should Austria's interests be touched, she could, it is said, not leave her friend in the lurch. One Berlin paper, writing on this subject, says that Marshal Moltke stated not long ago in Parliament that Germany must be armed for the next 50 years. These words are as fresh as ever to-day in the public mind, and although General Schoebell's speech has been disavowed by the Russian Government, still it has no more been forgotten here than the late unscrupulous attacks which the Russian press deemed it to indulge in against Germany and Austria particularly.

MOVEMENTS IN AFGHANISTAN.

The Calcutta correspondent of the *Times* telegraphed on Sunday says:—Only two items of Afghan news have been officially issued during the past week—namely, that the Amir is said to have ordered the collection at Candahar of the balance of the revenue for the current year, amounting to ten lakhs; and that, owing to the arrest of

the Ghilzai Khan at Cabul, orders have been despatched to Candahar for the disarming and disbanding of the Indari Ghilzai regiment, 1,000 strong, and two regiments have been sent from Cabul for the purpose.

The *Civil and Military Gazette*, a Lahore paper, publishes a report which, if true, points to serious complications at Herat. It is that the Amir has ordered the Governor of that place, Abdul Kadir Khan, to make over the city and fortress to Yusufzai and to proceed to take the Governorship of Candahar. Kadir, however, refused to obey, saying that he was appointed Governor by Isa Khan, without whose orders he would not move; thereupon the Amir directed the execution of Kadir's brother, Abdul Ghias Khan, who happened to be in Cabul. The report goes on to say that Herat is now in open revolt and a force of three arms has been sent from Cabul to suppress the rebellion. These rumours from Lahore, originating as they generally do in the gossip of the Peshawar bazaar, must always be received with caution. No confirmation of this story has yet reached the Government of India, and the chances are that it is exaggerated, if not wholly false. But beyond doubt the Amir holds on to his power, and the latest authentic news from that quarter indicates the existence of an uneasy feeling, which may at any moment break out into open revolt.

The Indian public are anxiously awaiting full details of the treaty between Russia and Persia. Meanwhile, the Press is commenting on the apparently well-founded rumour that the Russian frontier has been advanced to 16 carats from Sarakhs. The unanimous opinion is that should the rumour prove true, it betokens the British Government's policy of a strong and emphatic protest, as the new position will make Russia practically the mistress of Merv and Herat, and enable her to lay claim to cause serious trouble in Afghanistan and on the North-West Frontier of India.

COURT AND FASHIONABLE NEWS.

THE QUEEN AND PRINCESS BEATRICE drove out yesterday, attended by the Duchess of Roxburghe and the Hon. Horatia Stophord. Her Majesty walked out this morning with Princess Beatrice. Prince Leopold's knee is nearly well, and his Royal Highness will very shortly be able to walk. The Queen continues to receive favourable reports of the Duke of Connaught, who is making satisfactory progress.

SUNDAY. The Queen drove out yesterday afternoon attended by the Duchess of Roxburghe and the Hon. Horatia Stophord. Her Majesty and Princess Beatrice, and the members of the Royal Household attended Divine service at Osborne this morning. The Rev. Canon Prothero officiated.

The Prince and Princess of Wales and Princess Victoria and Maud went to a grand military ball at the Royal Albert Hall on Saturday afternoon in aid of the funds of the Royal Cambridge Asylum for Soldiers' Widows. The Prince of Wales, attended by the Hon. H. Tyrwhitt, and the Princess, attended by the Hon. Lady M. de Villiers, were in the Royal Box at Willis's Rooms on Saturday evening.

Baron de Schaeffer, Austro-Hungarian Minister to Washington, and the Hon. E. Allen, United States senator, were amongst the passengers by the *Empress of Russia* which sailed from the Mersey on Saturday for New York. The *Servia* had on board an unusually numerous company of passengers for this season of the year.

The Earl of Dunraven arrived in Queens-town yesterday morning from New York. The Earl of Wiltton's condition still causes much anxiety, but as he has been in an equally dangerous state before hopes are entertained of his ultimate recovery. On Saturday the subjoined bulletin was issued at 11 a.m. by the Earl of Wiltton's medical advisers:—"The Earl of Wiltton has passed a quiet night, and had more sleep. This morning his lordship had gained strength, and his general condition had improved. Dr. Garrod, his lordship's usual medical adviser, has been twice to Eglerton Lodge to see him, and Dr. Marriott and Mr. Willan are in constant attendance."

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Galignani's Messenger.

Head Office:—PARIS, No. 224, RUE DE RIVOLI.

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PRICE 40 CENTIMES

Great Britain.

LONDON, FEBRUARY 13-14, 1882.

THE LATEST PHASE OF THE EGYPTIAN QUESTION.

Although, so far as the English Government can help to enlighten it, Parliament is left completely in the dark concerning our Egyptian policy, a flood of information has been let in upon the question during the past few days from several quarters. Mr. Gambetta has gone upon his travels, and with his fall a mere circumspice policy has been adopted by the French Foreign Office. Once more the English Cabinet is experiencing that sense of sudden isolation caused by the defection of France, which led to the break up of the European Fleet in the autumn of 1880. It may be doubted, however, whether even if Mr. Gambetta had not been thrown from his saddle, our own Government would have abided by the principles laid down in the Identité Note, to whose "success" Earl Granville has testified. We cannot but think that the Leader of the Opposition in the Upper House would do well to invite the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to make some statement as to the communications, written or oral, which have during the last few days passed between the Powers and the Representatives of the Powers who read their own Identité Note to Said Pacha. Unless we are very much misinformed, Earl Granville has been devoting his energies to minimising the success and to undoing the "great effect" of his former despatches, and has been professing in his assurances to more than one Foreign Ambassador in this Capital, that his despatch of November and the Identité Note of January really meant nothing at all, and that the desire mainly cherished by this country is that the affairs of Egypt should be treated as the common concern of all the Powers. Now, before commenting on the levity, as well as the danger of this course, we are forced to ask what relation it bears to the attitude maintained at Cairo up to date by the agents of the Cabinet? Will the noble Lord maintain that it is not "substantially different" from the line of conduct laid down in the Identité Note of January? If that be so, why did Germany, Austria, Russia, and Italy at once take action at Constantinople, and why has it become necessary to explain to them that we are most desirous to have their co-operation and to act strictly in concert with their wishes? Could anything be plainer than that Lord Granville either was alarmed by the sound he himself had made in the Identité Note, or by the counter sound which it at once evoked from the Four Powers. Whether it be wise, or whether it be unwise, to associate those Powers with ourselves in the direction and control of the affairs of Egypt, it is placed beyond dispute that such was not our intention a month ago. Whether it be wise or whether it be unwise to recognise in the simplest manner the Sovereign rights of the Sultan over the Khedive, it is incontestable that we did not recognise, nay, that we ignored, them, until they were brought to our attention by the Powers that took umbrage at our separate action. That in what appertains to Egypt our Government have first said one thing and then said another is scarcely open to doubt. The country, however, would not be unwilling to make allowance for the inherent difficulties of the situation, if it thought that at last our policy had got its head in the right direction, and that the period of vacillation was closed. But what is the present position? Unless Earl Granville can give a contradiction to the assertion that his recent efforts have been directed to tranquillising the Powers and to inviting their co-operation in Egypt, is it not only too plain that our interests in that country are going to be placed, by our own consent—indeed, at our own invitation—under the protection of the European Concert? This is what comes of writing strong Notes, and supporting them with weak action. There is no difficulty in understanding the dilemma in which the Cabinet now finds itself. Either we are to make good the warning addressed to the National Party in Egypt by the Joint Note, or we are to witness the contempt with which that warning has been treated. From the former course it is clear the Government shrink. Naturally, however, they are ill content to leave the matter in the humiliating position implied by doing nothing. In order to escape from either forcibly controlling Arabi Bey and his associates, or from avowedly submitting to them altogether, they have appealed to the European Concert to get them out of the difficulty, and one of two things must now infallibly occur. Either the European Concert will do nothing, in which case the National Party will continue to encroach upon the powers of the Control, and to appropriate the Revenue intended for the Bondholders; or the European Concert will resort to active interference, and Egyptian affairs, in which we are supposed to have a special and a leading interest, will become the business of the whole world. Be it borne in mind, moreover, that one of the members of the European Concert is Russia, whom Lord Derby reminded that, even in case of war with Turkey, Egypt must remain entirely out of the sphere of her military operations. Does the English Cabinet propose to allow the Court of St. Petersburg to have any say or share in controlling or directing policy at Cairo? This is to put the extreme result of this new expedition of our Foreign Office. Are we to be assured, in due course, that it would not be right, not moral, not Christian, to assume greater influence in Egypt than we are willing to accord to other Powers? If the plea were a sincere one it would deserve the contempt that is the proper answer to sentimental folly. But in this instance, at least, it is not sincere—it is merely a flimsy veil for failure and incapacity. We seem to have no policy, whether in Egypt or elsewhere, unless it be that on no account must we offend anybody, quarrel with anybody, dissatisfy anybody. Thus we are driven from pillar to post, and have no firm standing ground anywhere.—Standard.

THE COMING CLOTURE.

Ministers have not only the courage of their convictions, but the daring which a consciousness of their majority inspires. The rumours of concession and compromise in connection with the closure resolution are absolutely unfounded, and the

Government will adhere not only to its principle, but to its letter. What, Mr. Gladstone and his colleagues ask, is the use of a majority, if it is not to be employed upon such occasions as the present? It is the business of followers to follow. The Liberal chiefs have come to the determination that the power of ending a debate should be vested in the House of Commons, and that its exercise should be regulated by a bare preponderance of votes. How far this decision is wise, and whether it is politic to place the power which it involves upon the Ministerialists, are not questions with which we are now concerned. Events alone can justify the wisdom or expose the folly of the step. That the Cabinet will succeed in giving immediate effect to their policy there is no doubt. When the eventful division in the discussion, which begins on Thursday, takes place, Ministers will not have many votes to spare. There will be several abstentions and some secessions. But the Whigs will not retire in a body, as has been asserted; they have listened to the voice of reason, according to the Ministerial interpretation of the term. Mr. Walter, Mr. Gourley, and one or two more will go into the Opposition lobby, but they will do so almost alone. The Conservatives are, of course, pledged to resist the *cloture* to the last, but it is by no means certain that they feel as strongly on the subject as they profess. On the other hand, there is reason to think that some of them will have it with satisfaction. It has been said that when the Opposition come to Power they will endeavour to repeal the *cloture*. They will do nothing of the sort. They will, on the other hand, derive more practical advantage from it than the Liberals. When they are in office they will have to deal with the eternal question of Ireland. In all probability they will have to pass a Coercion Bill. They could certainly not do this without the *cloture*. The idea of applying coercion to the House of Commons may be unacceptable and repulsive; but there is the best reason to believe that it is recognised as inevitable quite as much by the Conservatives as by the Government. For these reasons we hold that the resistance to the *cloture* resolution will be much more apparent than real. There is a prodigious fuss over it; but the tumult will soon subside, and the echoes of angry voices will die away.—World.

VALENTINE'S DAY.

The particular fashion of exchanging love greetings which has rather arbitrarily fixed on the Fourteenth of February for its anniversary, and on Valentine for its saint, has varied with the variations of time and century. Valentine is enrolled in the list of Christian martyrs, but the rites which have assumed his name were celebrated by pious pagans long before he was thought of.

The second week of February is somewhat bleak for assignments in English woods, but the birds seem to find it a suitable period for commencing their household arrangements. Birds have always been favourite subjects for the illustration of the pictorial missives sent about so freely at this time. These effusions have, truth to say, degenerated of late years into rather perfunctory and illusive makeshifts. Sundry specimens of gay embazonment which have this year presented themselves boldly to the inquirer as Valentines have a false air of stale New Year or Christmas cards about them. What has a representation of an Eastern maiden selecting from among the brilliant stuffs of a tinners' merchant, with the legend underneath, "With the best greetings of the season," to do with Valentine's Day? The thing is manifestly inadequate. Better by far the archaic simplicity of the stanza which has helped many an ardent but inexperienced lover to the trouble of a wordless passion—"The rose is red; the violet blue; Honey's sweet; And so are you." The truly single-minded lover will find more satisfaction in that personal, if crude, form of address than in a lithographed study after Mr. Alma-Tadema, or even in painted satin pin-cushions, packets of soap, or bottles of perfume. Matters were far more serious in the old English times, when young men and maidens drew for each other on Valentine's Eve in lotteries, and the gentlemen were expected only to make presents to his fair of more or less value, but to serve as her faithful swain and servant for the rest of the year. Married people do not seem to have been exempt from this pleasurable penalty, which of late years has degenerated into a larger acceptance on conjugal engagements than has come down to our own times, at least in outward appearance. Mr. Peys records the circumstance of being drawn as Valentine by a little girl, which pleases the frugal ardent but it earns me of something more which I must have given to others." The custom of annual greetings between friends, on whatever occasion, falling easily and commonly into the shape of giving presents, but this is a mistake. A dozen pairs of long Swedish gloves, a pair of pretty earrings are tempting things to girls; but the habit of making gifts is one which places the man of slender means at the mercy of the millionaire, and it is apt to degenerate into vulgar competition. Valentines above all things should be free from the mercenary element. Cupid has no pockets, nor indeed any possibility of them. Flirting and love-making have little to do with questions of currency, and have been carried on from immemorial times independently of them.—Daily News.

FASHIONABLE NEWS.

On Monday the Empress of Austria was out with the North Shropshire Hounds, but although Viscount Hill was most energetic in his attempt to provide sport and scoured his district until after five o'clock, only one fox was found at the end of the day, and was killed almost immediately. The meet was at Press Station, and at 11.30 her Majesty rode up with Count Larisch who is hunting with the Leicestershire Hounds, but has come to Comerberg for a couple of days, Count Kinsky, Captain Middleton, and Major Bulkeley. Her Majesty and suite returned home at three.

The Princess Louise (Marchioness of Lorne), has been on a visit to the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall at Windsor Castle, returned to Kensington Palace on Monday evening.

The Earl and Countess of Derby returned to St. James's-square on Monday from Keston, where they have been passing a few days.

The Earl and Countess of Jersey have left Great Stanhope-street for Middleton Park, Bicester.

The Countess of Lonsdale, accompanied by several members of her family, has left her house-terrace early on Monday morning for Lowther Castle, in order to attend the late Earl's funeral.

The Right Hon. Charles P. Villiers, M.P., was said to be better on Monday, but was suffering from weakness from his confinement to his room. Some weeks must also elapse before the right hon. gentleman will be able to resume his place in the House of Commons.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—MONDAY.

The Lord Chancellor took his seat on the woolsack at five o'clock.

THE WORKING OF THE LAND ACT.

Lord ORANMORE, in moving for various returns respecting the names, qualifications, and action of the Sub-Commissioners appointed under the Irish Land Act, said that the Government ought to admit the House whether those gentlemen, previously to their appointment as Sub-Commissioners, had a practical acquaintance with the value of land in Ireland, and also in what cases they had been induced by independent valuers. The noble Lord criticised adversely the proceedings of the Sub-Commissioners, and, adhering to the pamphlet entitled, "How to become the Owner of your Farm," observed that there were rumours in Dublin to the effect that its publication at the Stationery Office there was not so accidental as the Government had been assured. He thought that, at all events, the mere fact of its publication at that office showed how important it was to have the Land Act administered by impartial officials. He repeated his charge against Mr. Gladstone and some of the right hon. gentlemen's colleagues, that speeches delivered by them, which he was sure had been intended only to catch the ear of the House, had done more than all other causes to stir up ill-feeling between class and class in Ireland; and he strongly denounced the Irish policy of the Government since their accession to office.

Lord CARLINGFORD thought that as Lord ORANMORE had given not the smallest previous intimation of his intention to go into so many Irish topics on that occasion, it would be more convenient for him to defer a reply till an early day when the working of the Land Act would be brought under the notice of the House by a noble lord on the Opposition side. With one slight modification, the returns moved for would be produced by the Government without objection. He might say that he had no objection to the noble Lord's remarks, but he had never been Solicitor to the Land League, had sent in his resignation as Solicitor to the Irish Land Commission, and his resignation had been accepted; Mr. Godley had sent in his also, but it had not been accepted.

Lord CARLINGFORD believed that he had just stated, thought there existed good reasons for believing that Mr. Fottrell was at one time Solicitor to the Land League. It was not, he thought, that Mr. Fottrell was the author of the letters of which the pamphlet was composed.

Lord FORTESCUE was of opinion that the explanation of the Government was not satisfactory. The fact that the Land Court had been set up by the Government, and that it would not increase the public confidence in the impartiality of those who composed it. He suggested that Mr. Godley, the Secretary, who allowed the pamphlet to be circulated with the authority of the Commission, had also been dealing with too leniently.

Lord SALISBURY remarked that a new light was thrown on that matter if it were the fact that Mr. Fottrell had concocted the materials of the pamphlet. As to Mr. Godley, either he was an irresponsible careless or he must have thought that his superiors would not write out distaste the circulation of the pamphlet.

Lord GRANVILLE, while bearing testimony to the general intelligence of Mr. Godley, agreed with Lord Salisbury that he acted unwisely in respect of the pamphlet.

The Lordships adjourned at 25 minutes past 6 o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—MONDAY.

The Speaker took the chair shortly before four o'clock.

NEW WRIT.
On the motion of Mr. R. Power, a new writ was ordered for county Meath, Mr. A. M. Sullivan having resigned.

QUESTIONS.
Mr. GLADSTONE, in answer to a question from Sir W. Lawson, said it was not intended to introduce a Bill for the alteration of the Licensing Laws; but the Local Government Bill would have a bearing on the grant of licences.

In answer to Colonel Alexander, Sir W. HARCOURT stated that a Police Superannuation Bill had been prepared and would shortly be introduced.
In answer to Mr. Bourke, Sir C. DILKE said it was intended to present a paper on the subject of the Government's policy in the Under-Secretary said that he had no official mission there were no papers relating to Mr. Errington's visit to Rome which could be produced. Sir H. Wolff having asked the Under-Secretary to show to Cardinal Jacobini as his authority, Sir C. DILKE said that there was no truth in the statement that Mr. Goschen's visit to Berlin had any official character.

In answer to Baron de Worms, Mr. Gladstone declined to give any facilities for the motion in reference to the outrages on the Jews in case the debate on the address presented to the House.

THE DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS.

The adjourned debate on the address was resumed by Mr. PLUNKET, who first of all vindicated the Irish policy of the late Government, pointing out that they had greatly mitigated the severity of the Coercion Act they found in existence, that they had passed University and Intermediate Education Acts, and that if they had opposed the re-opening of the land question, so had Lord Hartington and his colleagues in the lead of the Liberal party. Passing to the course of events under the present Government he showed how they had tolerated the extension of the Land League—in Mr. Chamberlain's language, had refrained from stifling it in order not to prevent reform—and how deplorably the unchecked agitation had demoralised the people. Touching on the operation of the Land Act he complained that in many cases sub-commissioners had been appointed who were partisans, and giving details of what he maintained were gross and unfair reductions of rent he insisted that according to the speech of Mr. Gladstone last year, a case for compensating the landlords had now been established. Adverting to Mr. Gladstone's speech on Thursday, he asked, amid much cheering from the Opposition, was Home Rule to be heretofore an "open question" in the Cabinet? and warned the Government that whatever concession they might make in this direction would be used for separatist purposes.

Mr. GLADSTONE canvassed in a reproachful vein the speeches of the Opposition during the recess, complaining that no stone had been left unturned to discredit and embarrass the Government, and challenging the Conservative leaders to adopt or repudiate the charges of their followers. Replying to Mr. Gibson's indictment that the Government had not acted with sufficient vigour, he vindicated his often-quoted Liverpool speech, denying emphatically that he had ever advocated the total extinction of the landlord's interest in a political object. By the remark that the agitation would have been to prevent reform, he had meant, he said, that to resort to repressive measures without attempting to remedy the grievance would have been a course full of danger. Defending the operation of the Act, he pointed out that many of the Sub-Commissioners' decisions had been sustained by the Supreme Court, and asserted that the practice of rack-renting had been proved to exist far more extensively than had been supposed. He maintained that it had been just, right, and necessary, and that, after the lapse of a reasonable time, it would restore the peace and prosperity of the country.

Mr. NORTHCOKE, who had been charged by Mr. Chamberlain with contradicting his Liverpool speech, maintained that the language there used bore out his contention that the Government had failed in their duty in not putting down the Land League and apparently for a political purpose.

Mr. MARSH maintained that it was impossible to keep up rents in Ireland beyond the point permitted by foreign competition, and predicted that if they were not further reduced, there would be an agitation against the judicial rents.

Mr. BLENHERNASSETT condemned the policy of the Irish extreme party and especially the "No-rent" manifesto, which he believed it would be found impossible to carry out. Speaking from personal experience of the Land Courts, he maintained that the Sub-Commissioners had done substantial justice. At the same time, he admitted that many landlords had suffered severely, and though no case for compensation had been made out, he hoped the Government would be able to see its way to give them some relief.

Mr. BAILEY, criticising the administration of the Coercion Acts, contended that they had been obtained on false pretences, and maintained that Mr. Gladstone had totally misrepresented the aims of the Land League, on the faith of which he had arrested Mr. Parnell and his colleagues.

Mr. T. DICKSON made a strong attack on the Conservative party, contending that the landlords, pointed out various defects in the Land Act, and, though refusing to vote for the amendment, condemned the policy of coercion.

Lord G. HAMILTON, reverting to Mr. Chamberlain's Liverpool speech, quoted numerous passages from it, and contended that it convicted the Government of having utilised the Land League for Parliamentary purposes and of having refrained from suppressing it solely with the view of passing the Land Act. This he maintained was a gross misrepresentation, and had been denounced by the Home Secretary and other Ministers as partaking of a Fenian and semi-seditious character. On the deplorable consequence of the delay in putting down the Land League, he dilated at some length, and criticising next the administration of the Land Act, he insisted that the Sub-Commissioners had entirely changed its character, and that these officials were frequently partisans, and that their judgments had resulted in public plunder.

Mr. STURGES-BURTON contended that in the proceedings of the Sub-Commissioners had been disclosed an amount of rack-renting which had not been before suspected and which, moreover, had existed for a great number of years. To illustrate this, he quoted various cases, and expressed a decided opinion that in the south and west the Act would probably effect very large reductions of rent. To the charge that the Government had delayed in putting down the Land League, he replied by asserting that its main principles had been fully brought forward before the House, and that the Government were ready to assist them.

Mr. GRAY examined in great detail the grounds on which Mr. Parnell's arrest was justified by the Government, contending that his aims and meaning had been completely misrepresented.

On the motion of Mr. SEXTON the debate was again adjourned.

The House adjourned at 20 minutes after 2 o'clock.

POLITICAL AND SOCIAL ITEMS.

(FROM THE "DAILY NEWS.")

We have reason to believe that on Monday a British representative at the Court of Berlin, Vienna, Rome, and St. Petersburg on the subject of Egypt. This step was taken in conjunction with the French Government, which at the same time despatched an identical note to their representatives at these Courts.

The statements current alleging intention on the part of Government to vary the form of the first resolution in the scheme of Parliamentary procedure reform, are entirely without foundation. Mr. Gladstone will on Thursday move the Resolution, as it has been placed on the paper.

The apparently concerted movement in some quarters to represent the *cloture* clause as being in danger, owing to defection on the Liberal side, has led to a minute estimate of the probabilities of the vote. This shows a maximum number of eight Liberal members who are inclined to regard adversely the Ministerial proposal. But it is by no means certain that when the issue is directly placed before the House these honourable gentlemen will vote with the Conservatives.

Amid the profound interest which gathers round the first clause in Mr. Gladstone's Resolutions on Parliamentary Procedure, those that follow scarcely yet receive attention. There is, nevertheless, evidence that members on both sides believe that the proposal to have two Standing Committees is inadequate to the necessities of the case, and when this part of the scheme is reached amendments will be moved to increase the number.

In the event of Mr. Gladstone finding an opportunity of moving the first resolution on Parliamentary procedure on Thursday next, an event now regarded as settled, the debate will be adjourned till Monday, and will be thereupon proceeded with on all Government nights.

Mr. Bradlaugh took his seat under the gallery in the House of Commons on Monday night, and remained during the question hour. He has made no communication to the Sergeant-at-Arms which indicates a present intention of renewing the conflict for his seat on the floor of the House.

We understand the Government have no intention of following the course suggested by the question of which Mr. Bromley-Devonport has given notice, and moving for a Select Committee to inquire into the Channel Tunnel scheme.

The Earl of Dundee was in the House of Lords on Monday night, and subsequently visited the House of Commons. In both places he received many congratulations on his safe return from the United States.

We regret to hear that the Foreign Office have reason to fear that although Mr. Stillman's safety is assured, yet some other Englishman has been lately murdered in Albania. Several persons who have been known to act as spies correspondents in those regions have been mentioned in connection with this painful rumour, and inquiries as to their whereabouts are now being made. For obvious reasons we abstain from mentioning names.

(FROM THE "STANDARD.")

Considerable indignation has been caused among some of the supporters of the Government by a circular issued by the Birmingham Liberal Federation on the action of members with reference to the Procedure Resolutions. The Ministerial Whips repudiate any responsibility in the matter.

It is probable that Mr. Balfour will proceed with his Amendment to the effect that the *cloture* Resolution should be postponed until the other Resolutions have been disposed of, and that on this Amendment a division will be taken.

A meeting of the Irish Parliamentary Party was held on Monday night, at which the new Rules of the Parliamentary procedure were discussed, and an adjournment was taken without any distinct course of action having been adopted.

THE VOYAGE OF THE "CEYLON."

A passenger in the *Ceylon* writes to the *Daily News* under date Jan. 23:—We left the Suez the same evening that we arrived there, just waiting long enough to pick up those who had crossed over from Alexandria, via Cairo, where they had a pleasant stay, visiting the Pyramids, etc. We now settled down for our fortnight at sea, and under the directions of Dr. Stewart, the surgeon of the ship, some of us began to learn our parts for some theatricals to be played just before reaching Bombay. As we got into the Red Sea it began to grow hotter, and soon we found the punkahs a great comfort at meals; they were first used on Christmas Day. A young lady travelling with her father had returned from Cairo very unwell, and gradually became worse, until she died on December 27. She was, sadly enough, her father's only child. The funeral took place the following afternoon, and formed a very impressive ceremony. This event cast a gloom over the ship, and made the Christmas and New Year's festivities flat and dull. On the last night of the old year we had some singing between midnight and 3 a.m., so as to be rejoicing at the same time as our friends at home.

We left on Thursday, Jan. 5, we awoke to find ourselves in the harbour of Bombay, with a beautiful view as the mist cleared away from the islands. The steam launch was ready by the time breakfast was over, and began to take us by relays ashore. We had to go to the hotel in a hotel while the *Ceylon* went into dry dock, but as she could not get in from insufficiency of water, they had to clear her by heeling her over as they took in coal. The bottom got very foul in the harbour at Smyrna, and this had to be scraped out with a knife and a half an hour, and made us lose time considerably. The great interest in Bombay was in finding out for the first time in a land where so many of one's friends and relations pass the better part of their lives, I suppose there is hardly a family of the upper middle class which has not an interest in India for this reason. I stayed one night at Malabar Hill, a suburb about five miles from the town, and was very much interested in the life of the English lead.

Mr. George Foster, who was with us, told us that the majority are of the manners and customs of the natives themselves, even after several years in the country. We spent one day in visiting the Caves of Elephanta, and on our return we found a snake charmer and a juggler on board who amused us with their tricks, one of which, common to all jugglers here, is very wonderful. Into a pot containing a little earth he puts a cotton cloth, and then covers the pot with a cotton cloth; on our return we found a snake charmer and a juggler on board who amused us with their tricks, one of which, common to all jugglers here, is very wonderful. Into a pot containing a little earth he puts a cotton cloth, and then covers the pot with a cotton cloth; on our return we found a snake charmer and a juggler on board who amused us with their tricks, one of which, common to all jugglers here, is very wonderful. 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Judging from the experiences of an "ex-Captain of Militia," extravagant mess expenses seem to be as much the rule in that branch of the service as in the regular army. His mess account after the twenty-six days of annual training amounted to £51 10s.; of this £22 10s. was for mess bill, £11 16s. for wine and £17 for share of ball and "contingent" expenses." Having remonstrated with the commanding officer on the score of this in-

PRICE 40 CENTS

position of all majorities, whether Liberal Conservative; but I do not wish to lose a seat. The local caucuses, with little knowledge of the question and no experience in the House, have passed resolutions in favor of the new plan, and I am not strong enough to fight them. Last year I asked my con-

(strength at the Imperial Hotel, Torquay.

The Duke of Argyll contributes a very ably written article to the *Argyll Review* for February on "Agricultural Depression." He attributes the whole of the agricultural depression to one cause, and shows very clearly that though all prices have ranged above the average. He still puts his trust wholly in high farming and much capital. The Duke we need not say is a very high authority on any one cause, at least, of the present depression, the growing dislike of men with capital to an uncertain trade which yields low and irregular profits, grand chances, and no status. The laboring man, however, and tenant-farmer rises, but has no capital; it is the gentleman with a few acres who turns tenant-farmer with sufficient capital, falls. Mr. St. John's gift is a very interesting description of the advance of free-trade and the changes which are becoming Liberalism and Atheism. He makes some frightful quotations from the "Liberator."

principal sinners in this matter. It is r
forsooth, thought the thing to appear a
dance before midnight, and thus night

THE LANCET

Head Office: - PARIS, No. 224, RUE DE RIVOLI.

Branch Office: - LONDON, 168, STRAND; NICE, 15, QUAI MASSÉNA.

PARIS, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1882.

PRICE 40 CENTIMES

No. 20,798.—FOUNDED 1814

Great Britain.

LONDON, FEBRUARY 23—24, 1882.

THE LORDS AND THE COMMONS.

LORD DUNDEE has given notice in the House of Lords that he will move for the appointment of a certain number of Peers to the Committee to inquire into the working of the Irish Land Act of 1881 and the condition of Ireland. A good deal was said in advance about the number of Liberal Peers who were ready to take part in the Committee, and who, thus, it was suggested, were to reduce almost to nothingness the influence of Mr. Gladstone's opposition to the project. The Liberal Peers who are named on the Committee, and who, we suppose, have consented to serve, are not men of a stamp whose defection, if it be a defection, is likely to bring great encouragement to the Liberals of England generally. The Duke of Somerset is on the list, and the Duke of Somerset has mainly distinguished himself during recent years by the perverse ingenuity which he displays in trying to thwart and to worry all Liberal Governments. Lord Brabourne also has consented to act on the committee. But Lord Brabourne has steadily sat on the cross benches during his short career in the House of Lords. He has almost invariably opposed whatever Mr. Gladstone's Government has done, and in regard to Irish land and its systems, and he has, we believe, of late definitively severed himself from all connection with the Liberal party on the ground that he does not approve of the policy that party is following. Lord Darnley is an Irish landlord first and a Liberal afterwards, and he is one of those who strongly supported the appointment of the Committee in the first instance. Lord Clarendon is known to the world in general as the son of a distinguished statesman. Not much is known of him beyond this, except the fact that he, too, we believe, habitually takes his seat on the cross benches. Lord Penzance is a lawyer, and nothing else. Lord Carysford is not a tower of strength to the Liberal cause. There does not, therefore, seem to be much evidence in the constitution of the Committee that many who can seriously be called Liberals are likely to agree with the majority of the House of Lords, and to disagree with the opinions of Mr. Gladstone and Lord Granville. We regret none the less that the House of Lords should not have had discretion enough to withdraw from the position which they have unnecessarily taken up. They might have withdrawn from that position at all the more readily because it is not supposed that the principal leaders of the Conservative party were of themselves much inclined to press for the appointment of the Committee. But if the House of Lords will persevere in their course, and if Mr. Gladstone should find it necessary to persevere with the motion which he has given notice, we fear that the resolution must be all but disastrous to the work of the session. Mr. Gladstone will have to begin on Monday by proposing that the Standing Orders of the House be suspended in order to allow the vote on the proceedings of the House of Lords to be taken before the orders of the day. Sir Stafford Northcote has given notice, and on this a preliminary debate will be raised which may possibly take up the whole of the evening. Then will come the main question, the vote of censure, as we may call it, on the recent action of the House of Lords. No doubt by this time the partisan feeling on the Opposition side of the House of Commons will be pretty well stirred up, and the blood of the country squires will be hot for fight. Many influential Tories already make no secret of their determination to keep the debate at least a month, that is to say, virtually until Easter. Audacious as this proposition may seem, it is nevertheless perfectly within the power of those who threaten to make good their threat. The Government have only two nights each week at their disposal, and it would not take any very surprising effort of organized obstruction to spread the debate over eight or nine such nights—that is, over four weeks of the Session—or, indeed, if necessary, to bring the discussion quite up to the time when the House would be expected to adjourn for the Easter holidays. After the Easter holidays, the House would naturally resume the debate on the new rules for the regulation of business, and the man would be sanguine indeed who expected that that discussion would be brought to a close much before Whitsuntide. There, then, is the best part of a Session already marked out for doom, and we have said nothing of the interruptions to a continuous debate on either of the subjects already mentioned by the necessary intervention of nights given up to Supply. Would it not be possible to find some way out of this difficulty? Would it not be possible for Mr. Gladstone to show us the way? Why, for example, might not Mr. Gladstone come down to the House of Commons, explain there as fully as the occasion required the strong reasons which compelled the Government to object to the appointment of a Committee such as that proposed by the House of Lords, announce that the Government would lend it no assistance, and take on themselves no responsibility for the disturbance which it might create in Ireland, and then also announce that the Government preferred not to throw away any of the short and precious time at their disposal by proposing a resolution in condemnation of what the House of Lords have done?—*Daily News.*

GERMANY AND RUSSIA.

The *Daily Telegraph* has received the following despatch, dated Feb. 23, from its Vienna correspondent:—
It is not to be expected that General Skobeleff's recall to St. Petersburg will be followed by any severe disciplinary measure. The very mild reprimand of his statements which appeared in the Russian *Official Messenger* prove to what extent the Government are obliged to deal cautiously with him. But quite independently of that circumstance it is believed here that in presence of the existing state of affairs in Russia it would be difficult, not to say dangerous, for the Czar to punish so popular an officer as Skobeleff. There is not the slightest doubt that the Czar personally disapproves of the General's conduct, but, admitting that he has the will, he has certainly not the power to keep him within bounds. Some of the Czar's more moderate counsellors, and foremost among them M. de Giers, probably consider not only the incendiary character of Skobeleff's utterances but

also the wild aspirations that prompted them. But what can the Czar and his advisers do in presence of such a formidable national movement as Pan-Slavism, in its present phase, headed by determined, unscrupulous, and able men like Ignatieff, Skobeleff, Aksakov, and colleagues with almost unlimited pecuniary resources at their disposal.

It is not as if those outside the Pan-Slavist camp were one united body of right-minded men bent on peace and the welfare of their country. That represents but a small minority of the Russian people. Besides the Pan-Slavists there are Nihilists, Socialists, and Revolutionists of different categories, and in the back of the host of corrupt and unprincipled officials to whose malpractices the present desperate condition of Russia is chiefly due. The Czar is more to be pitied than blamed, and his many domestic virtues are a guarantee for the conscientious performance of his public duties. But he is paralysed by his surroundings, and his situation at the present moment is in many respects that of a monarch in custody. Ignatieff, his chief gaoler, and alas his evil genius, is to all intents and purposes the present ruler of the Russian Empire, and is only waiting for natural events to vacate the Chancellorship to seize the post occupied for the moment—held officially, at least, by Prince Gortschakoff. Therefore, when speaking of official circles in Russia, it must be well understood what is implied thereby by the Pan-Slavists. There came a moment when I have reasons of my own for connecting with the Dantzig interview, when Alexander III. understood that he could follow his friends no further without imperilling the interests of his Empire. Unfortunately the Pan-Slavists had then too powerful and too numerous for the Emperor to effect an abrupt separation, and unfortunately, too, his forced seclusion has since then placed him more than ever in their hands. If he were gifted with the energy of his grandfathers Nicholas and Alexander I, he would be able to emancipate himself from them; but even then the absence of a party or group of men, animated to the same extent as himself with peaceful and patriotic intentions, would prove an obstacle to his emancipation. The Czar is now the spokesman of those whose influence in Russia is now predominant admits no doubt whatever. But there is equally good reason to believe that his Paris speeches have annoyed the Czar, and seriously embarrassed the Russian Foreign Office officials.

COURT AND FASHIONABLE NEWS.

WINNERS CASTLE, THURSDAY.
The Queen, Princess Beatrice, Prince Leopold, and Princess Helen of Waldeck rode out yesterday afternoon. Her Majesty's dinner party included Princess Beatrice, Prince Leopold, the Prince of Waldeck and Pyrmont, and Princess Helen, the Dowager Duchess of Roxburgh, the Dowager Marchioness of Ely, Baroness Doebell, Baron von Stockhausen, Captain von der Wenz, Sir John and Lady Cowell, General Lord Charles Fitzroy, and Colonel Sir John Cairns. The Queen walked in the garden, attended by the Hon. Horatia Stopford. The Duchess of Connaught went out accompanied by Princess Beatrice, Prince Leopold and Princess Helen of Waldeck drove out, attended by the Dowager Duchess of Roxburgh, the Duke of Connaught and the Prince of Waldeck and Pyrmont, attended by Major A. Egerton, Baron von Stockhausen, Captain von der Wenz, and Major-General Du Plat, left Windsor at 10.30 a.m. for London. The Prince of Waldeck remains at Buckingham Palace.

The Duke of Connaught visited the Prince and Princess of Wales on Thursday, and remained to luncheon. The Prince of Wales, attended by the Hon. H. Tyrwhitt-Wilson, dined with Lord Carrington, and the Hon. Corps of Gentlemen at Arms in their mess room at St. James's Palace on Thursday evening.

The French Ambassador left London on Thursday morning for Paris, travelling by the train service from Charing-cross, and returns this week to London to deliver his letters of recall.

The Duke of Roxburgh has returned to Floors Castle from Taymouth Castle, where he had been on a visit to the Earl of Breadalbane. The Duke of Roxburgh, the Duke of Devonshire, and the Duke of Marlborough, Lady Sarah Churchill are at present visiting the Duke and Duchess of Roxburgh at Floors Castle. Lady Fanny Marjoribanks has left Floors for London.

The Dowager Marchioness of Normandy has recovered from her recent illness, and is now enabled to take her accustomed drives and walks in the vicinity of Mulgrave Castle, Whitby.

The Earl and Countess of Selkirk have left town for Scotland.

The usual daily telegram from Egerton Lodge, Melton Mowbray, did not reach Lord Wilton's town residence in Grosvenor-square till between six and seven o'clock on Thursday evening. Its tenor was not so favourable as might have been expected from those who were in the habit of writing to him. It follows:—Lord Wilton passed a quiet night, but his strength is not so well maintained to-day. A private telegram subsequently received represents the earl to be in a very critical condition. Sir Henry and Lady Alice de Vere left town on Thursday afternoon for Melton Mowbray. Viscountess Grey de Wilton are at Melton. The Duchess of Cambridge and the Duke of Cambridge sent twice during Thursday and inquired after the latest information respecting Lordship's condition.

Sir Alfred and Lady Slade have removed their town residence from Elvaston-place to 3, Lyall-street, Belgrave-square.

Captain and Mrs. Howard have arrived at Thomas's Hotel from Berlin.

Mrs. and Mrs. Tweed have left Thomas's Hotel for New York.

A marriage is arranged between Miss Frances Long, fourth daughter of the late Sir Richard P. Long, Bart., and Mr. Long, of Marlly, and sister of the present member for North Wilts, and Mr. De Windt, only surviving son of the late Mr. De Windt, of Blunsdon Abbey, Wilts.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place April, between Frederick Robert St. John, H.B.M. Minister in Central America, son of the late Hon. Ferdinand St. John, and Miss Isabella Fitzmaurice, second daughter of the Hon. James Fitzmaurice, captain Royal Navy, of Fernley, Maidenhead. Lieut.-Col. Hon. Daniel Greyville Finch, late of the 24th Foot, died at his lodgings, in Bury-street, St. James's, on Wednesday night after a short and severe illness. The deceased colonel was the second and youngest son of Hon. George, 5th Earl of Aylesford, by the late Lady Augusta St. John, fourth daughter of George, 2d Earl of Warwick, and was born 26th April, 1827. He entered the army in 1845, and was appointed captain in the 68th Foot in December, 1853, became major in 1855, and Lieut.-Colonel 24th Foot in 1862. Soon afterwards he was placed on half pay, and retired from the army in 1873.

He served with the 68th Light Infantry throughout the Eastern campaign of 1854-55, and was present at the battles of Alma and Inkermann, and the siege and fall of Sebastopol, for which he had received the medal with three clasps, brevet of major, the decoration of the 5th Class of the Order of the Medjidie, and the Turkish medal.

THE LEVÉE.
By command of the Queen, a Levée was held on Thursday afternoon at St. James's Palace by the Prince of Wales on behalf of her Majesty. Presentations to his Royal Highness at this Court are, by the Queen's pleasure, considered as equivalent to presentations to her Majesty. The Prince of Wales, attended by his Gentlemen-in-Waiting and escorted by a detachment of Life Guards, arrived at the Palace from Marlborough House about 2 o'clock, and was received by the great officers of State and the Royal Household. The Prince of Waldeck and Pyrmont arrived from Buckingham Palace, attended by Baron von Stockhausen, Captain von der Wenz, and Major-General Du Plat. The Duke of Edinburgh arrived from Clarence House, attended by Colonel Bateson, the Hon. J. Lubbock, and Captain Clerk. The Duke of Connaught and Strathmore arrived at the Palace, attended by Captain Sir M. FitzGerald (Knight of Kerry). The Duke of Cambridge arrived from Gloucester House, attended by Colonel Bateson, the Hon. J. Lubbock, and Captain Clerk. The Duke of Devonshire, the Duke of Saxe-Weimar, and the Duke of Teck were present at the Levée. Her Majesty's Body Guard of the Hon. Corps of Gentlemen-at-Arms was on duty in the State Saloons, under the command of Lord Barrington. The Prince of Wales, the Duke of Edinburgh, and the Duke of Devonshire, and the Duke of Saxe-Weimar, and the Duke of Teck were present at the Levée. Her Majesty's Body Guard of the Hon. Corps of Gentlemen-at-Arms was on duty in the State Saloons, under the command of Lord Barrington. The Prince of Wales, the Duke of Edinburgh, and the Duke of Devonshire, and the Duke of Saxe-Weimar, and the Duke of Teck were present at the Levée. Her Majesty's Body Guard of the Hon. Corps of Gentlemen-at-Arms was on duty in the State Saloons, under the command of Lord Barrington.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—THURSDAY.
The Lord Chancellor took his seat on the woolsack at five o'clock.

AUGMENTATION OF BENEFICES.
At the instance of the Lord Chancellor the Augmentation of Benefices Act Amendment Bill passed through Committee, and was reported to the House without amendment.

MILITIA OFFICERS.
Lord LAMINGTON called attention to the system of competitive examinations of Militia officers for commissions in the Army. He suggested that in these examinations candidates should not be asked to write the degrees obtained by them at the Universities.

LORD DUNDEE gave notice that this evening he will move the appointment on his Irish Land Act Committee of the peers whose names he read to the House.

Their Lordships adjourned at 25 minutes to six.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—THURSDAY.

The Speaker took the chair at 4 o'clock.

EGYPT AND THE POWERS.
In reply to questions from various members, Sir C. DILKE said he was not in a position to make any statement with regard to the Egyptian question. The Government knew nothing of leave of absence being granted to Russian officers to join the insurgents in the Herzegovina, nor had they any reason to apprehend a disturbance of peaceful relations between the Egyptian Government and the Powers. In regard to the reforms in European Turkey, on the advice of Lord Dufferin, the Armenian question was being pressed in the first instance. Later on in the evening, Sir C. DILKE said he had just received a communication from the Egyptian Government about the treaty negotiations, the terms of which he could not communicate, but they afforded a prospect of as satisfactory a settlement as was possible under the circumstances.

THE CHURCH TUNNEL.
Baron IL DE WORMS asked the First Lord of the Treasury whether it was to be understood that the evidence with regard to the Channel Tunnel taken by the Departmental Committee, promised to the House by the Secretary of State for War, was not to be presented to the House; whether the new Committee now proposed was to sit with closed doors like the previous one; and whether the Houses of Parliament would be excluded from making an open inquiry in the matter into the whole of the evidence.

MR. GLADSTONE: The report and the papers connected with this inquiry will of course be presented to the House of Commons. They are collected for the use of Parliament not less than for the use of Government, but subject to the usual rules of the House with regard to any particular point of a confidential character, which it might not be desirable to bring into public view. With regard to the second question, I think it is the uniform practice for preliminary inquiries of this kind to proceed with closed doors, and I have no doubt that that practice will be conformable to the House. With respect to the third part of the question, undoubtedly there will be no limitation whatever to the power of either House of Parliament to make inquiry, and moreover, the Government reserve to themselves the consideration of what course they may recommend Parliament to pursue—if necessary, to recommend a Parliamentary inquiry which would in no way be narrowed by the purely scientific inquiry that is now being made. I ought to notice the point, though the hon. gentleman has not put it, whether the noble lord the member for Flintshire is to continue to hold the double position of a member of the Government and chairman of one of the Channel Tunnel Companies pending the proposed inquiry. The proposed inquiry, which has reference to the national safety and defence, has no connection whatever with the office of my noble friend. With regard to that office, it is right I should say that he assumed his position in the Government less than a month ago, and that he has been chairman of one of the Channel Tunnel Companies for no less than fourteen years. Should a case arise in which the duties of these two offices would be incompatible, I have no doubt that my noble friend will be the first to resign his position in the Government, and I am sorry if a case should arise, and in that opinion I think the House will concur. (Cheers.)

EXTRAORDINARY EXPENDITURE IN IRELAND.

On the question of going into Committee of Supply on the Supplementary Estimates, Lord PRYCE moved for a return of all sums charged on the Estimates connected with the attempt to preserve Life and Property in Ireland.

MR. CHILDES, while pointing out the impossibility of giving details, explained that the military force of all arms in Ireland at the present moment amounted to 30,000 men, more than its strength at the time when the Government took office, and about 7,000 men which was about 10,000 men more than the force in 1879. The noble lord then stated the extra military expenditure in connection with Ireland was £30,000, which had been saved on other charges, and for which, therefore, no Supplementary Estimate would be required. The extra naval expenditure would be £20,000.

MR. RYLANDS made some discursive comments on the landlord policy which made this expenditure necessary, and Mr. GORST and Sir W. BARTLETT insisted that in the absence of details Mr. Childes's statement was not satisfactory.

LORD E. CAVENDISH, speaking for the Civil Service, explained that the extra expenditure under these heads, including £35,000 for the Land Court, would be about £200,000.

MR. SCLATER-BUTCH, Colonel Barnes, and Mr. SHUTE, Colonel Barker, and Mr. GORST and Sir W. BARTLETT, in representing to the Government that the question of arrears lay at the root of the present disturbed state of Ireland, Mr. BIGGAR made some characteristic remarks on the course which, alluding to Mr. H. Gladstone's visit to Ireland, he said, "to superintend evictions," he recommended the Prime Minister if he wished to establish his "Young Hopeful" to apply for the reversion of Marlwood's place for him. This Mr. Gladstone's visit to Ireland, and his condemnation of what, amidst very general cheering, he characterized as a "brutal remark."

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THE STATE OF IRELAND.

The Rev. Roderick Ryder, incumbent of Errismore, county Galway, was shot at on Tuesday evening when returning home from Clifton. The shot did not take effect, and a number of stones were then thrown, one of which knocked off his hat, which was subsequently found on the road with a hole in it, as if pierced with a bullet. Mr. Ryder was formerly a Roman Catholic priest, but for some years past he has been engaged as a Protestant clergyman in the Connemara district. The house of a farmer named William Carroll, in county Limerick, was set on fire by an armed party on Tuesday night. Carroll has been arrested.

Upwards of five hundred labourers paraded the suburbs of Cork on Wednesday, visiting the houses of gentlemen and well-to-do farmers, and demanding increased wages. Their requirements are 10s. a week with garden and grass for a few sheep. Their demands were granted in several instances, and where their terms were not agreed to they used threatening language; and in a few cases where the persons so threatened refused to join their movement they assaulted them.

THE DUBLIN CORRESPONDENT OF THE *Standard* wrote on Thursday night:—A short time ago the statement that the Government had discontinued the extension of a treasonable

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NICE:—15, QUAI MASSÉNA.

Great-Britain.
LONDON, FEBRUARY 25—26, 1882.

THE CONFLICT BETWEEN THE LORDS AND THE COMMONS.

The *Saturday Review* thinks the decision of the Lords to appoint a committee to inquire into the working of the Land Act and its effect on the condition of Ireland may perhaps be regretted; but it was a mistake made honestly and with good intentions, and has been met by a challenge on the part of the Government which is quite unnecessary, which must be inoperative, and which will lead to a lamentable waste of the time which the Government professes to be anxious to economise. They did not wish to drive the Government from office, or to embarrass it in its grave contest with anarchy, but merely to show that, as private individuals, they were suffering unjust pecuniary losses. Unfortunately they so shaped their motion that, if it was literally carried out, the Committee must very gravely embarrass the Government. The Lords have not meant to censure the Government, and it is useless for Mr. Gladstone to parade the majority which on such a subject he can notoriously command. Lord Granville might have put things right without any appeal being made to the Commons. If he had stated, after both parties had had a day or two to deliberate, that he understood the appointment of the Committee was not meant as a censure on the Government, and had gone on to point out the means of unfair attack on the Government which the Committee, if conducted in a contentious spirit, might open the door, he would unquestionably have received from the Conservative leaders an assurance that the institution of the Committee was not meant as a censure on the Government; that they were fully alive to the necessity of rigidly controlling the action of the Committee; and that they would be no parties to an unfair attack on those whose difficulties in a time of great delay they appreciated. The result, which is the most that can be attained after a six nights' debate in the Commons, would have been arrived at in a few minutes. The Government would have vindicated itself, and the Committee of the Lords would have gone on, but gone on in a very measured and moderate way.

The *Times* remarks that it must be admitted that in this matter the greatest difficulties have been thrown in the way of the return of the Lords to a more sensible course. The Prime Minister has not set the example of perfectly subordinating personal or party considerations to the paramount claims of the public interest. But if Mr. Gladstone made retreat in the first instance harder than it need have been, the House of Lords has now, by its own action, added yet further to the difficulty. To a false step made in ignorance it has added another, made with full knowledge of the direction in which it is moving. In theory, of course, what it has done is irreparable; but in practice there are means of escape from a false position. It behoves the House of Lords in such a case as this to rise above technical argument concerning its independence of the House of Commons, and to set aside as altogether unworthy of consideration the alleged loss of prestige upon which some of its advisers dwell.

The *Standard* says:—The speech of the Foreign Secretary, though couched in a studiously conciliatory strain, offered nothing like a real and tangible concession. The peers cannot be expected ignominiously and gratuitously to surrender. With a very small amount of tact and conciliation the whole controversy might have been avoided. The enemies of the House of Lords and of the Conservatives will strenuously labour to represent the appointment of the Committee as a party move. It will be for the members of the Committee to demonstrate by their action how groundless is the charge. The House of Lords has taken upon itself a great duty; the responsibility which it entails is proportionate.

The *Daily Telegraph* says:—Lord Granville put on Mr. Gladstone's action a construction intended to take off the rough edge. He insisted that it was not a vote of censure on the House of Lords, but a vote designed to support the Land Commissioners. Regarded from that standpoint it may be defended, yet no such explanation covers the whole ground.

The *Daily News* says:—The Conservative members of the House of Lords have, we fear, rendered all but impossible the compromise which we recommended yesterday, and which, as we have since had occasion to observe, commended itself very strongly to Liberals of all sections. We do not remember to have heard the war trumpet blown with a more determined blast, and with less excuse for its summons. We have only to repeat that unless some unexpected concession be made, the present Session of Parliament is practically doomed to barrenness.

The *Morning Post* asks:—Why did not Lord Granville, at the outset, specify the "grave objections" to the appointment of the Committee entertained by the Ministers? The true explanation of his reticence is probably this:—that Mr. Gladstone saw in the situation an opportunity of posing as the leader of "popular" opinion against the "privileged classes." In default of any better "cry," the Premier may yet be driven to take over from Mr. Bradlaugh the "abolition of the House of

Lords," and the present affords a good opportunity for testing how far such a movement would be acceptable to the country.

The *Morning Advertiser* says the attitude of the House of Lords is in every respect worthy of their traditions and their place. They have put their foot down in this matter, and we hope they will not budge an inch in retreat. They are in the right.

THE CRISIS IN EASTERN EUROPE.

The *Spectator* is not disposed to undervalue the seriousness of the crisis in Eastern Europe, but the true reasons for alarm are frequently overlooked. The extreme desire of many Englishmen, and of the Jews who control so much of the Continental press and telegraph agencies, to cast opprobrium on the Government of Russia, creates a wide misapprehension of the facts. There is danger in the air, but it does not arise from the action of any Government, unless it be that of Austria, and even that is more than doubtful. It is as nearly certain as any fact dependent on individual wills can be, that the three "Imperial Powers" earnestly desire peace for the present. The Czar dreads the very notion of a great war, in which a defeat would shake his Throne to pieces, and amid which the restoration of financial safety, upon which he is intent, must necessarily be abandoned. The German Chancellor, again, though probably willing, out of a permanent dread of a Franco-Russian coalition, to accept war, is obviously not hurrying one on, directs his agents to minimise the importance of General Skobeleff's speeches, and is well aware of the nearly invincible antipathy with which his master—now a man of vast age, and full to repletion of successes—regards the possibility of another war during his own lifetime. Finally, the Austrian Government, besides its habitual dread of great disturbances, detests the notion of a war in which the feelings of its own subjects would be divided, which would cleave a deep chasm between itself and the Slavs of the Balkans, and amidst which the Dalmatians, the Bosnians, and the Herzegovinians might assert successfully their own independence. The Governments will maintain peace, if they can, at present, and the real danger arises from movements within Russia itself, which may prove powerful enough to force the hand of the Czar. Of the precise depth, and still more of the precise degree of impetus in these movements, no Englishman can know much, and it is absurd to be dogmatic about them; but the evidence on the surface is not reassuring. As to the merits of the question nominally at issue, the real question being the comparative strength of the two races, most Englishmen will, we think, be agreed. Bosnia and Herzegovina were handed over to Austria by a European award, as fully as the Ionian Islands were handed over to Great Britain, and though the Bosnians have full right of insurrection, Russia has no right to repudiate her consent. But Russia has a full right, if she thinks it worth while, to resist any aggression on either Serbia or Montenegro; and the Austrian allegation that those States are helping rebels is either meaningless or a declaration of war. They have a right to help them, and to find allies, if they can, to protect them from the consequences. The inherent right of the Balkan States, like all other States, is to self-government, and neither Serbia nor Montenegro waived her independence as regards Bosnia under the Treaty of Berlin.

The *Economist* believes that the position of Austria in the great struggle between the Slav and the German which so many acute observers believe to be approaching, is not so bad as that of Russia, but it is not simple, and it is not satisfactory. The best point in it is that there is a head to the State. The Emperor Francis Joseph has to keep Bosnia-Herzegovina against the will of the Bosnian people, who are annoyed with his agents, and excited with the chance of union with Serbia, their natural ally, and Dalmatia, their natural sea-board; and against the will of Russia, which desires influence among all Slavs—to keep them by force, and yet, if possible, without a war. A war would for him be a contest for existence, and he shrinks from it with the dread which all ancient and legitimate princes regard enterprises involving such stakes and a necessity for revolutionary energy. If he were victorious, it would be by the aid of Germany, and he would have to enter into new and difficult combinations, in which all the work of pacifying savage territories would fall to his share; while if he were defeated, his Empire might break up, and in the best event his sway over his Slav subjects would be almost gone. He must, therefore, avoid war, and yet in order to keep the provinces war must be risked. The Bosnians must be reconquered; and this war excites and irritates the Russians, who hear all that occurs within the Balkans as perfectly, though not as rapidly, as we hear all that occurs in Ireland. To secure these various ends without making war a certainty, the Austrian Government endeavours to accumulate a force so great that it can crush the insurgents, daunt the Servians, and keep back the Montenegrins, without actually entering either of the independent States. It has, therefore, treated the insurrection—which is not by itself very formidable—as if it were a war, has drawn together from 70,000 to 80,000 troops, has mobilised the fleet as well as the army, and has issued strict orders to its generals to wait till all is ready and the weather is finer. If when the movement begins a crushing blow can be struck, all may be well, and the agitation will be at an end; but if not, if the troops are defeated, or if a long guerrilla war breaks out in the mountains, and the repression, as usually happens in such cases, becomes savage, the position will be most serious.

MR. BRADLAUGH'S EXPULSION.

When Mr. Bradlaugh some time ago announced that he had found a *catholicon* or universal remedy for all his disabilities, one, the *Saturday Review* points out, meant. Indeed, it could hardly have occurred to any one that even Mr. Bradlaugh's ingenuity, assisted by Mr. Bradlaugh's contempt for what other people held sacred, would devise the scandalous farce of Tuesday:—

Some very clever people affect to see in this proceeding something more than mere childish indecency, while in the repeated insult offered to the House on Wednesday they see a second move in a clever game. Mr. Bradlaugh, according to them, aspired after a third mandate from the electors of Northampton, and thought the best way to get it. It is really hardly necessary to inquire into the workings of Mr. Bradlaugh's mind. The House of Commons has to do, not with his intentions, but with his proceedings—a fact which is constantly forgotten by his apologists. If he had not put himself on record as a person on whom the oath was not binding, the transactions of the last two years would not have taken place. If he had not twice in two days forced himself on the attention of the House first by a piece of insolent mummery, and then by a piece of more insolent insubordination—he might have continued to lurk about the precincts of the House, and address gatherings of Secularists and Republicans in the purlieus of the capital, till a dissolution returned him to his appropriate obscurity. There is another person concerned however, whose conduct is much more interesting and much more worthy of comment than Mr. Bradlaugh's. Admirers of the Prime Minister assert that he acted through these trying scenes with the consistency, courage, and dignity which have marked his conduct in dealing with this question from first to last. There is no doubt of it, and it would be impossible to find a more exactly appropriate phrase. The consistency which pursues an argument up to a certain point and then stops short at the conclusion, the dignity which sulks for years in revenge for the indecency of the Commons of England, the courage which never dares meet the problem fairly and squarely, but skulks behind courts of law, previous questions, allegations as to the time of Government being so much taken up that they cannot deal with the matter, and so forth, have never been more admirably exemplified than in the Prime Minister's speech on Wednesday was a marvel of verbiage even for him.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—FRIDAY.

The LORD CHANCELLOR took his seat on the woolsack at 11 o'clock.

THE LORDS AND THE LAND ACT.

On the motion for naming the Select Committee on the Irish Land Act.

LORD LANGSDOWN expressed his opinion that the objections put forward to the appointment of the committee were serious, and that any such committee would be a waste of time and money. He thought the committee would be a waste of time and money.

LORD SALISBURY contended that if the House of Lords recognised the right of the House of Commons to legislate on the subject of the Irish Land Act, they would be bound to support the measure.

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maintenance of main roads in England, and Mr. Bradlaugh said that though he was not in a position to agree to it last year, the Government had considered the whole question of local taxation during the recess, and they had come to the conclusion to deal with it in connection with the Finance Bill of the year and to make a proposal in conformity with Mr. Harcourt's motion for the relief of the ratepayers. He hoped, therefore, that Mr. Harcourt would not deem it necessary to go on with his motion. In that case it would be possible to go on at once with the Supplementary Estimates, which he pointed out, it was necessary to pass before Wednesday next.

MR. HARCOURT asked whether the contemplated arrangement was to be in connexion with the legislation of the Session, and the *Times* had spoken of it as "fugitive and evanescent as a morning dream." Mr. GLADSTONE replied that legislation would, of course, be necessary, but he would take care that it was detached from difficult and contentious legislation, which Mr. Slater-Booth interpreted to mean that it would not be part of the County Government Bill, and ultimately Mr. Harcourt, accepting the offer in perfect good faith, said he would not go on with his motion. In answer to questions from Mr. Healy and Mr. A. O'Connor, Mr. Gladstone said that, as the circumstances were different, it would not be possible to deal with the Irish roads in the same manner.

The House then went into Committee of Supply and passed a very late hour on the Supplementary Civil Service Estimates. The Irish Constabulary Vote afforded another opportunity to the Irish members to attack Mr. Forster's administration of the police on various occasions. Mr. Forster, supporting the vote, took occasion to express his high sense of the tact, courage, and self-control of the police. In the end, the vote was carried by 183 to 18. Several other Irish votes were agreed to.

On the vote of £1,300 for salaries and expenses in connection with the Office of Public Works (Ireland), Mr. Sexton said the Irish members would give this vote all the opposition they could give. Mr. GLADSTONE said that the conditions under which loans were granted to small farmers were such as to exclude them from all benefit under the clause. Lord F. CAVENDISH said that as the thing was still an experiment, the Government were not to be blamed for not having taken the conditions under which loans were granted to small farmers were such as to exclude them from all benefit under the clause.

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disclaim them utterly as disgraceful to the city of London and dishonourable to common humanity. If the Council want money let them beg it, if they want a stronger elephant's bag let them build it; there is brick and iron enough in London to keep a single beast safe, I suppose, and if there are not children in London brave enough to back him in his afternoon walk let them look at him and go to their rocking-horses. It seems to me, however, that Mr. Slater's letter is quite ground enough to justify the police in preventing any further direct violence to the animal, and while the Council and Mr. Barnum's agent are concocting new methods of treachery to him there is time for the children to say their say, and pay their pence, and make Jumbo their own for ever. Then, if there are any other fellows of my mind, we'll find board and lodging for him and peace.

I am, Sir, your faithful servant, JOHN RUSKIN.

THE OUTRAGE AT DUN ECHT.

DISCOVERY AND ARRESTS.

The correspondent of the *Standard* at Aberdeen wrote on Friday:—I learn that the mystery in connection with the removal of the remains of the late Earl of Crawford and Balcarres from Dun Echt in December last has been solved, and that one of the seven arrests have been made by the Aberdeen police to-night. This arrest is the result of investigations that have been carried on during the last few weeks by Mr. Allsop, of Aberdeen, the legal representative of the family, in connection with the anonymous letters received by him, making an offer to restore the remains of the late Earl to his family on condition that a ransom of six thousand pounds is granted. The writer of these letters has been identified as a man who disfigure his handwriting, but Mr. Allsop, with the aid of experts, was enabled to identify it with the writing of other parties who have, it is said, been suspected in connection with the disappearance of the Earl's remains. It is believed that information has been obtained which will lead up to important revelations. In consequence of the discoveries made, and by the action taken by the local authorities, the Earl of Crawford and Balcarres was summoned to appear before the Sheriff of Aberdeen to Superintendence of the Scotch-land-yard Detective Service, that he was required to come North at once. The utmost secrecy is being observed by the local police as to the action that has been taken, and the Earl of Crawford and Balcarres was summoned to appear before the Sheriff of Aberdeen to Superintendence of the Scotch-land-yard Detective Service, that he was required to come North at once. The utmost secrecy is being observed by the local police as to the action that has been taken, and the Earl of Crawford and Balcarres was summoned to appear before the Sheriff of Aberdeen to Superintendence of the Scotch-land-yard Detective Service, that he was required to come North at once. 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Great Britain.

LONDON, FEBRUARY 28—27, 1882.

THE LORDS AND THE COMMONS.

Lord Salisbury's emphatic declaration that Mr. Gladstone's motion must be regarded as a direct attack upon the constitutional position of the House of Lords, would of itself put almost insurmountable difficulty in the way of any satisfactory arrangement. On the one hand, it stirs up the bitterest feeling of party and of class among Lord Salisbury's own followers; on the other, it would make concession coming from the Ministerial side seem like an acknowledgment that such an attack had been intended and had to be abandoned. Friday was the first day when Lord Salisbury had an opportunity of showing what his leadership of the Conservative party was likely to be on any really important occasion; and he showed only too clearly how unfitted he is by temper and by turn of mind for such a place. Shakespeare has a Salisbury who is addressed as "Thou mad misleader of thy brain-sick son." We have a Salisbury now whom it would be hardly beyond the bounds of propriety or of fairness to call the mad misleader of an occasionally brain-sick party. On Friday the House of Lords, without the slightest derogation night, without the slightest dignity, have withdrawn from their position into which they had been thrust so suddenly a few evenings before. The Prime Minister and the Government had interposed with the whole force of their responsibility and authority, and a moment's cool consideration would have told the Peers that the country would expect them to give way. If they still believed in the necessity for the appointment of a Committee of landowners to inquire into the working of a Land Act that has only just begun to be worked, they could have relieved their consciences and their souls by declaring that on the Government, and not on the House of Lords, would rest the blame of having presented such a committee from being appointed. They could have withdrawn from the controversy with the expression of that famous hope that things might be none the worse that day twelve-month, which if events turned out one way would be a pious wish fulfilled, and if the other way a prophecy; but they have chosen their ground under Lord Salisbury's guidance, and we suppose they mean to hold it. They cannot be said to have been in any doubt as to the probable consequences of their unflinching determination. Not only that the Prime Minister's announcement on persevering, but it was they who very loudly announced which, according to Lord Salisbury, induced them to persevere. Not only did they persist in spite of the Prime Minister's declaration that the course they threatened would be disastrous to the cause of order and good government in Ireland, but they made that very declaration another reason for their persistence. The English people for the first time have seen the investigations of any amateur Committee of the House of Lords as a serious menace to the stability of the Empire. Trade policy. But the Irish tenant-farmers will undoubtedly see in the appointment of a Committee of land-owning Peers to inquire into the working of the Land Act a very serious menace to the stability and the effective operation of that Act. It is possible to suppose that such a step as the appointment of such a Committee will not drive many a tenant-farmer still inclined to loyalty and the cause of order to declare in his despair that, after all, Mr. Parnell was right, that the House of Lords are too strong for Mr. Gladstone's best intentions, and that the Land League is the only body to which the Irish occupier can look for protection? We cannot have been unwilling that Mr. Gladstone should be appointed to allow the Lords' Committee to be appointed without obtaining from the House of Commons an emphatic declaration which shall relieve him and the Government from all share in the responsibility for so ill-omened a piece of work. If the Prime Minister could have seen his way to arrive at the same result by a declaration on the part of the Government without the necessity for a formal resolution and a debate in the House of Commons, we should have been glad; and such a course would have been possible, and might have been adopted, had it not been for the happy precipitancy of the House of Lords on Friday. If such arrangement, of which even now we are impossible the blame must rest altogether on the House of Lords. Unfortunately the consequences will not have to be borne by them. A wasted Session will not trouble the Peers in particular. The inevitable postponement of most important legislation will not affect them more than it affects other people; not nearly so much as it will affect many other people. We may as well look the whole business straight in the face and recognise its full menace. If the Opposition, including the Irish party, with whom they are in more or less cordial alliance, are in more or less of a debate with should use their energy and perseverance anything like of them, the real business of the Session may be regarded as already doomed to postponement. The already driven have in any case no particular wish to help the Government in useful legislation—the Irish party are always ready to obstruct. Lord Salisbury has

given an incitement to both hands which they will not be slow to act upon. They can, if they choose, prolong the debate until the eve of the Easter Recess. Many of the Tory party are loud in their proclamation that they can do this, and that they will do it. If the House meets after Easter with the discussion of the new Rules for its business still before it, then all we can say is that it will be impossible for the Government to pass one single measure this Session of all those which were announced in the Speech from the Throne. What wonder if people should begin to ask themselves whether there is really benefit enough to be had from the existence of a House of Peers to compensate for the injuries which its capricious and thoughtless action may sometimes inflict?—Daily News.

RUMOURS OF A DISSOLUTION.

The Daily Telegraph of yesterday says:—In political circles last night a belief was prevalent that, owing to the action adopted by the House of Lords on Friday last in appointing a committee of inquiry into the operation of the Land Act, and the consequent difficulty of continuing the government of Ireland, Mr. Gladstone had determined to place his resignation in the hands of her Majesty. Various conjectures are rife as to the immediate result of Mr. Gladstone's resignation, but in well-informed quarters it is believed that any attempt to form a new Liberal Ministry under Lord Hartington would fail, owing to the defection of the Radical section of the Cabinet. It is thought more probable that the crisis will be left to be settled by an appeal to the country, and that with this view Parliament will be dissolved at an early date.

ANGLA-FRENCH COMMERCIAL RELATIONS.

M. Tirard's Bill regulating the commercial relations between France and England has been well received thus far. The Committee to which it was referred on Thursday, after it had been promulgated in the Chamber of Deputies, has presented a favourable report upon it, and after some discussion and after an authoritative explanation of its terms, it has been passed by the Chamber without a division. No time is to be lost in making further progress with it. M. Tirard does not look upon it as a final settlement of the question which it deals with. He has not given up all hope that the treaty negotiations may yet be renewed, and may be brought to a favourable conclusion. His Bill has been constructed to meet the emergency of the moment, to prevent, that is to say, the application of the general tariff to English goods on and after the 1st of March. The most favoured nation treatment which it affords to England carries with it a prolongation of the existing treaty until May 15. This was assumed by M. Rouvier, and after some doubt had been expressed by M. Peytral whether M. Rouvier's interpretation was correct, it was expressly confirmed by M. Tirard. The convention, it appears, which have already been renewed with other nations, stipulate, in their case, for the maintenance until May 15 of the Anglo-French tariff of 1860. England, therefore, if she is to be as well treated as any other nation, will so long enjoy the existing tariff, not by virtue of a further prolongation of the treaty beyond March 1, but simply as a first instalment of the benefit to which the bill entitles her. But, although M. Tirard hopes for a treaty with England, he does not think that the business can, by any possibility, be concluded before May 15. If it could, the inference would be clear that the past negotiations had been mismanaged, and that M. Tirard is naturally unwilling to admit. Why the negotiations have failed or on what basis they are to be renewed, M. Tirard does not say. We accept M. Tirard's Bill as containing the best arrangement it was in his power to make. That he has considered French interests rather than English interests in constructing it can hardly be alleged as a fault in a French Minister. It is clear that the Bill is a good deal less generous than it appears to be. English goods, under whatever tariff they had been placed, would have found a ready market through Belgium or some other country with which a treaty had been concluded. The French seaport towns would have been the chief sufferers from the change. The protectionists would have gained little or no more than the Bill will secure for them. They would still have had to contend against the same rivals, with no other advantage than the somewhat more round-about, and therefore more costly, method of transport by which English goods must have been conveyed. We have no wish to insist upon such rights as those which the Committee's report on the bill admits in our favour. France, the report says, cannot overlook the fact that England, by widely opening her own market to French imports, has some claim to be at least as well treated as other nations, which are less generous in this respect than she is. If England allows a free entry to French or to any other imports she does so entirely on her own account. It suits her to purchase French goods on cheap and favourable terms rather than to go without them or to make a more costly substitute for them at home. She seeks no return favours. If France prefers to pay a higher price than she need pay for the cotton and woollen goods she consumes and to have the satisfaction to the prospect of M. Tirard holds out of the renewal of the treaty negotiations. What need of a treaty which must necessarily be one-sided, and which France, therefore, can conclude on her own account at any moment she wishes for it?—Times.

"A MOST-FAVOURLED-NATION TREATY."

Confusion of ideas and consequent misapprehension appear with strange persistency and injurious iteration in the public conceptions of what is termed for convenience a most-favoured-nation treaty. It is now proposed that a treaty of this kind will regulate our relations with France, and the questions that put to Sir Charles Dilke on Friday night show a distraction of mind on the subject that would be truly astonishing in a less distracted Assembly. The Paris correspondent of the Times can himself descend to the assertion that "it is difficult to see how England, after refusing terms better than a most-favoured-nation clause can now accept the latter." To be able to

apply such an argument to such a point there must be most lamentable confusion of ideas. We seek a commercial treaty with a country in order that the inhabitants of that country may purchase of us goods at less than exorbitant rates, and that we may not be excluded altogether by prohibitive rates. Such is the function of a commercial treaty. But we seek a most-favoured-nation clause for altogether other reasons. By its means we endeavour to appear in that foreign market on equal terms with other foreign purveyors. The two objects are perfectly distinct and different. We are wanting to sell our goods in a market town. On the one hand we say to the gate-keeper, Do not you charge so high an entrance-fee that we shall be forced to put so high a price on our goods that purchasers in the market will be less willing or even unable to buy. On the other hand we say, Do not charge us more than you charge other purveyors from the outside. The two matters remain totally distinct not only in degree but in kind, and to confound together two objects so perfectly and fundamentally different is to create misconceptions and mistakes of which an intelligent people should be heartily ashamed. We wish to sell our goods in France; and we do not wish to be handicapped by paying larger entrance fees than are paid by other foreign purveyors. We wish to compete in supplying France with what she buys from abroad; but we wish most certainly to compete on equal terms with third nations. This is all to the advantage of France. For this purpose, but for this alone, we require a "most-favoured-nation" treaty. And this covers a most important division of our trade relations, and one of the interests of which we can afford to ignore. As for the tariff under which we shall enter France in common with other foreigners that is a matter which affects France far more than it affects us. The "better terms" we hear so much about are better for us only in a minor degree, but in a very major degree for France. A very serious state of affairs will be surely induced in France if she finds herself stranded without facilities of commercial intercourse with her neighbours. For instance, her wine-growing industry is already in a condition of absolute shrinkage, and some of the older vine-growing districts have lately survived in partial prosperity simply by the introduction of the new industry of wine manufacture. This substitute will find itself in serious jeopardy of extinction when by the injurious political exigencies of French Ministries England is driven to open up and develop direct trade in wines with Spain and Italy, and her own great southern colonies. If the French determine to curtail their freedom of profiting as a nation by unrestricted exchange they curtail their opportunities of prosperous growth. We suffer to the extent to which this failing prosperity of a near market curtails the consumption of our goods in that market. We shall also suffer if and whenever the high tariff lessens or altogether stops the consumption by the French of certain classes of our goods. All this is so far bad for us, but all this is far worse and far more injurious to France. We retain, while France gives up, the alternative of exchanging in numerous other markets what we do not want for what we do want; and what we can manufacture or supply cheaper for what others can manufacture or supply cheaper; and so we gain by the inevitable profits accruing to all exchange. These are the main economic results of no commercial treaty; and they are results which in course of time will lead the French to reconsider their position and attempt, to an extent nothing short of trifling, to remedy the evils that necessarily arise when political exigencies interfere to the detriment of industrial progress. In the meantime, it would be ignorant folly on our part to give up the other of the two conditions of the successful supply of foreign markets—the condition, that is, which places us on an equality with all other foreign purveyors. But the two matters are distinct, and to confound them together is to breed misconceptions that may be fatal and must be injurious to much commercial and industrial enterprise.—Pall Mall Gazette.

THE TIGHT-LACING MANIA.

The clever and suggestive lecture on "The Dress of the Period," delivered on Saturday by Mr. Frederick Treves to an audience which crowded the Kensington Town Hall to overflowing, serves as an illustration, were any needed, of the deep and perennial interest attaching to the subject of dress. How far our present free condition is from the imaginary state of perfect restraint was abundantly illustrated by the diagrams, casts, and models exhibited by Mr. Treves in support of his views. Of course every healthy man, at least one of the two, is like a shoe to protect the foot or something on the head to cover it from rain and sunshine. Because they have been injured to the construction they believe it to be necessary. These examples are among the least of the great deal of mischief, which they are bad examples. They do themselves a little harm, but not enough to produce patent and unmistakable results, and they encourage the use of stays amongst young women. But that tight lacing exists at present to an extent nothing short of frightful may be proved beyond all doubt to any one who chooses to see. Girls may be seen by hundreds walking excite horror and alarm in the beholder. The size of a normal healthy waist, amongst greater evils, exhibit forms which are shocking to every feeling of beauty or sense, but which happily are, as Mr. Treves assured his audience, in showing them a figure enlarged from a magazine of modes, incompatible with life. No woman could live like that and live. Again, the fashionable boot and shoe, with cuts of which the makers adorn their advertisements, are nothing but a parody on the Chinese deformity, which we regard with horror of the custom and the victim. The shape of the natural foot, as the arrangement of the bones are totally disregarded, and the result, when placed side by side with the Chinese deformed and hideous member, differs in little from it.

Amateur talking on these matters is not of much use. The offender acquiesces gently in the censure and continues to offend. But when men of science take the matter up, and demonstrate the terrible results to the individual and the race of these vicious practices, women should not close their eyes and ears. Mothers should look to it. Mistresses of schools, matrons of establishments for the reception of girls and young women of every class and of every country, should be the most practised perhaps in the middle and lower—all women placed in authority over the young are responsible.—Daily News.

THE DRESS OF THE PERIOD.—On Saturday afternoon Mr. F. Treves, F.R.C.S., of the London Hospital, gave a lecture at the Kensington Town Hall, in connection with the National Health Society, on the subject of the Dress of the Period. Dr. Andrew Clark was to have presided, but had been prevented away into the country, and Professor Flower took the chair in his place. A letter from Dr. Clark was read, referring to Mr. Treves as an accomplished anatomist, a skilful surgeon, and a very thoughtful, able, and earnest man. The lecturer said the object of dress was to maintain an equal temperature over the body, but female dress failed to fulfil this object. Full evening dress might be said to divide the lady who wore it into the frigid, the temperate, and the torrid zones. The greater part of the lecture was devoted to the subject of tight lacing, though French boots and shoes, trains, gloves covering the arm, crinolines, and other freaks of dress were noticed, and much amusement was caused by a quotation from a recent article in the Daily News, that with this style of bonnet the mouth should be worn slightly opened. "The true lines of the female form (with a waist of twenty-eight inches) were illustrated by a model of Thorwaldsen's Venus; the fashionable waist was shown by a costume in modern, lent by Messrs. Shill and Co., and the waist measurement being twenty-one inches; and the 'dressmaker's ideal' was depicted in a drawing from a fashion plate. With respect to the last, Mr. Treves said it was some consolation to know that the ideal was not worn, and was absolutely inconsistent with life. Costume models were, he said, to be found in London with a measurement of twenty-five inches round the waist, but even that implied a compression of at least three inches. He explained, and demonstrated by means of diagrams, the injurious effect of compression on the lungs, the heart, the stomach, and the liver, and quoted from the Lancet, and from Dr. Danford Thomas, coroner for Central Middlesex, to show that death from tight-lacing has been known to occur. He said, 'fashionably-dressed woman, he said, must walk ungracefully; and no one ever had a small waist naturally, except as the result of disease or deformity. For evening dress the lecturer spoke approvingly of the recently introduced 'French corset,' which was not prohibited on a model. A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Treves on the motion of Mr. Ernest Hart, seconded by Dr. Carpenter. The hall was densely filled, for the most part by ladies; and so many ladies were unable to obtain admittance, that it was announced that the lecture would be repeated on March 18.

THE DUNECHT MYSTERY.

An Aberdeen correspondent wrote on Sunday night:—What has for the last three months been known as the Dunecht mystery, has now been solved. The present revival is founded on the arrest of two men supposed to have been connected with the smothering of the body of the late Earl of Balcarras from the family crypt last year. In the month of January, 1881, the body of the late Earl of Balcarras, giving information of the removal of the body. The letter, being evidently the work of some illiterate person, was at first considered as a hoax, and was therefore disregarded. Shortly after the crime was discovered, however, another anonymous letter was received. It was signed "Nabob," and offered to restore the missing body on payment of £5,000. The present arrests have been made on the two men supposed to have been connected with the smothering of the body of the late Earl of Balcarras, a joiner by trade, was taken to London and brought before Lord Crawford, whose servant he had been for several years, and subsequently before the Scotland-yard authorities, but he refused to answer any questions about his connection or supposed connection with the robbery from the Dunecht tomb. On Saturday morning Kirkwood arrived in Aberdeen from London, under the charge of Inspector Swanson, of Scotland-yard. It was apparent that he had been arrested, and that the three prisoners should meet face to face in the County Constabulary Office in Aberdeen. Immediately on Kirkwood's arrival one other arrest was accomplished. It was that of John Phillips, a shoemaker in Aberdeen, who was a soldier and a drill instructor in the neighbourhood of Dunecht. The third party, like Kirkwood, a resident in the vicinity of Dunecht House, was not at home when the officer with the arrest warrant arrived. The two prisoners were taken to the County Constabulary Office, and the Aberdeen police were strictly private, and the prisoners were remanded for a week. It is understood, however, that the chief feature of the evidence against one of the two prisoners was the similarity of the handwriting and the phraseology of the letters sent in answer to advertisements with regard to the anonymous letters referred to. It may be added that Kirkwood is 44 years of age and Phillips 43. Detective-Inspector Swanson left Aberdeen for London on Saturday afternoon, but Mr. Alsop, Lord Crawford's London agent, remains in Aberdeen, while Lord Crawford himself will remain at Dunecht until it can be seen what shape the further proceedings in the case will take. The inquiry who left Aberdeen on Friday night, was furnished with two warrants, one to search Kirkwood's house, and the other to search the house occupied by one of the servants of the estate. The warrants were duly executed, causing great alarm and consternation in the respective localities. The search of Kirkwood's house began at 4 o'clock on Saturday morning, and lasted for two hours, his wife protesting his innocence. Kirkwood is a workman of more than ordinary skill. He receives from Lord Balcarras a free house, fire and light, and about £80 per annum. Phillips has been for some time employed at a leather merchant's in Galloglas.

COURT AND FASHIONABLE NEWS.

WINDSOR CASTLE, SUNDAY. The Queen drove out yesterday afternoon, attended by the Dowager Duchess of Roxburghe. The German Ambassador (Count Munster), Earl Granville, K.G. (Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs), and Count Herbert von Bismarck (Councillor of the German Embassy) arrived at the Castle yesterday afternoon. Her Majesty's dinner party included Princess Beatrice, the Duke of Connaught and Strathearn, Prince Leopold and Princess Helen of Waldeck, the Dowager Duchess of Roxburghe, Baroness Lobell, the Hon. Harriet Phipps, the Hon. Evelyn Moore, the German Ambassador, Earl Granville, K.G., Count Herbert Bismarck, Baron von Stockhausen, and Lieutenant-General the Right Hon. Sir H. Ponsonby, K.C.B. Princess Beatrice, Prince Leopold, and Princess Helen of Waldeck attended Divine service this morning in the private Chapel. The Rev. T. Teignmouth Shore, M.A., Chaplain in Ordinary to the Queen, preached the sermon. Her Majesty's visitors have left the Castle.

The Prince of Wales visited the Prince of Waldeck and Pyrmont at Buckingham Palace on Saturday. His Royal Highness the Duke of Madrid (Don Carlos) was last week elected an honorary member of the Junior Carlton Club. The Earl of Wilton, although his general condition remains unchanged, passed a quiet night on Friday, and had some hours of refreshing sleep during Saturday. Up to 10.45 on Sunday night no information had been received as to the Earl's house in Grosvenor-square as to his condition.

Viscount Lismore is still very seriously ill at Brighton. His lordship is suffering from a sharp attack of bronchitis.

A marriage is arranged between Mr. Edward Knight, only son of Mr. Knight, of Blithing House, Kent, and Miss Evans-Lombe, youngest daughter of Mr. Evans-Lombe, of Blythburgh Park, Norfolk.

Mr. George Leeman, late M.P. for York, ex-chairman of the North-Eastern Railway, twice Lord Mayor of York, and the holder of several important public offices, died at Scarborough on Saturday afternoon.

and were received at the doors by the Chairman of the Board, Mr. M. George, Professor Sylvanus Thompson, Mr. Dickson, Mr. Thomson, Major Fildes (manager), Mr. who at once conducted the Royal Party through the building, and showed them the principal features of interest. Of course in a visit necessarily of short duration only a tithe of the numerous exhibits could be any possibility be brought under their view, but these, as a matter of fact, embraced those of the most importance and utility. The exhibition, although not entirely complete, may for all practical purposes be considered so, and at any rate so far as regards the important point of electric lighting, which may be taken as the great centre from which everything else works, there is very little either left to be accomplished or, indeed, to be desired. Amongst such a multiplicity of steam and gas engines working with steady persistency to generate currents of electricity in innumerable dynamo machines, apparently to the unskilled eye to produce only the same brilliant and beautiful effect of light, it would be hard to make any judgment, as in passing along from any portion of the building, each time when under the fifty immediate view appears to surpass its predecessors. Certainly the Palace authorities have never before devised a show that at the same time shall amuse the public, bring profit to the proprietors, and be both utilitarian and instructive to the extent of the present exhibition. From end to end the building is full of surprises. Telephones bristle at every turn and corner, and inquiry at the numerous stalls only goes to show that some of the simplest objects of common life have been reduced to the position of the great power of the day. But, of course, as before said, the chief attraction is the numerous systems of lighting, which last night vied with one another in brilliancy. Beginning at the north end of the building, there is one continuous line of illumination by electricity by various systems throughout the whole length of the building and the railway corridor leading to the London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway Station, a line of light which is illuminated by one great arc light of 150,000 candle-power, 40 arc lights of 2,000 candle-power, 26 smaller arc lights used in sundry by-places, and 600 incandescent lamps of the Lane-Fox type. The latter, which are used in the illumination of the Alhambra Court, have a beautiful effect, every colour being fully brought out, while submarine lights of the same character, sunk in the north fountain basin, astonish equally the spectators and the fish. In order to the Brush Company of the Electric Light and Power Generating Company, who use as its arc lamp the "Weston" and the "Maxim" for the incandescent principle. The latter is brilliantly shown by a series of crystal chandeliers made for the purpose by Deane and Sons. Beyond these the turn follow the British Electric Light Company, who in addition to their portion of the nave, also illuminate the Egyptian and Italian Courts, while the centre transept has a grand light in its midst by a single arc light of 100,000 candle-power, and a similar number of the "Pilsen" type being used on the Handel Orchestra. The Opera Theatre and the adjoining avenue are lighted by Jablochhoff, one of the pioneers of electric light, who, in the concert room, under the direction of Mr. Edison's manager, presents a splendid appearance with 600 incandescent lights tastefully arranged in festoons and pendants. In the south nave, Messrs. Strode and Co., with the Mackenzie arc lamp, M. Edison, with his incandescent lamps, and in the corridor the Hammond Electric Light Company, who work the Brush system, have the entire charge. Of the innumerable exhibits which go to prove that electricity is capable of doing nearly everything short of actually talking, probably those most visited on Saturday night were interesting collections of telegraphic and torpedo apparatus, lent by the War Office, a splendid chronologically arranged set of telegraph instruments and apparatus from the Post Office, and the railway signal apparatus shown by Mr. Sykes, Messrs. Saxby and Farmer, Messrs. Winter and Craik, and the London, Brighton, and South Coast and the South Western Railway Companies. The system of Mr. Sykes, as shown by a working model of four sections of telegraph line, appears so far as human foresight can range, to give absolute immunity from accident. Throughout the whole building are hundreds of stalls, on which interesting articles are displayed, including telephones, electric clocks, electric clocks, insulating materials, medical instruments, and every conceivable application in connection with electricity, but for one single spot, the exhibition of Mr. Edison, in his so-called "entertainment room," stands unrivalled. The room is a large and incandescent lamp, the latter as easily manipulated as gas, and are put to the same uses, electric bells and calls, and a united photographic and telephonic receiver and transmitter. The latter caused much amusement to the Royal party, and the Prince of Wales, who was accompanied by the Prince of Waldeck and suite, were entertained at dinner by the directors, and left the Palace with which they expressed themselves much pleased, at a late hour.

youngest daughter of Mr. Evans-Lombe, of Blythburgh Park, Norfolk.

Mr. George Leeman, late M.P. for York, ex-chairman of the North-Eastern Railway, twice Lord Mayor of York, and the holder of several important public offices, died at Scarborough on Saturday afternoon.

VANITY FAIRINGS.

It is impossible for anybody with any heart at all to avoid feeling an affectionate sympathy with "Jumbo" in his trials. This most excellent and amiable elephant, who with us for seventeen years; he has carried some of us upon his back when we were children, he has married here, and has always behaved himself in the most kindly and orderly manner—and yet, tempted by Barnum and his miserable £22,000, the Council of the Zoological Society have had the inhumanity to sell him into American slavery. That Jumbo should have refused to leave the home and the friends of his youth, and should have passively resisted all attempts to inveigle him away from them, gives me a higher opinion of him than of many of my fellow-citizens. Jumbo thinks as I do, that this country is good enough for the likes of me, and I am grateful to him for refusing to leave it. If we are to sell any living creatures at all—especially if we are to sell them on the score that they may become dangerous in their old age—there are a good many, beginning for instance with the present Ministry, who might be sold cheap.

I am told by a friend who has lived much with elephants that the only thing required to prevent any possibility of trouble with Jumbo, and to make his life a happy, contented, and orderly one for ever, is domestic felicity. The rogue elephant becomes and remains a rogue only because he has been deprived of this domestic felicity; his feelings have been turned out by them to wander for ever in single-curseness. And so, if we wish to make Jumbo happy and contented, we must give him, as we give our Royal Princes, a proper establishment. This would consist of a certain number of companions of a proper suite of apartments for them. But as we are all determined to keep Jumbo, there can be no hesitation about it; we must have merely a question of money, and Jumbo's establishment should be provided.

Something has been said of the age to which elephants have been known to live. Now I am assured that there is now in the possession of the Indian Government an elephant who was at the battle of Plassy, and who must therefore be at least one hundred and twenty-four years old.

Bicycles have become a serious public nuisance. For all who ride and drive they are objects of terror and hatred, and it is hard to come across the slim counter-skinner on his noiseless wheel without feeling the reverse of charitable towards him and his infernal machine. It may not be possible to get rid of the bicycle, but common fairness demands that it should be subjected to the two guinea license tax that is laid upon other wheeled things, and common sense would suggest that, like the much less dangerous cabs, it should be licensed and numbered. But that is certainly too late.

I went last week to the Sportsman's Exhibition at the Agricultural Hall, and saw a very valuable life within a foot of being put to an end. I was in company with a youngster who, in putting his gun on half-cock, let the hammer go and sent the whole charge at a yard distance within, as I have said, a foot of my spine. Last week a man of whom I know something was less fortunate than myself; he received a charge of shot in his side, the accident occurring, as usual, in getting through a hedge. These attacks on the safety of life are not things to be trifled with, while at the Exhibition, and, wondering what I should be doing if I had been shot a month ago, I came across Messrs. Silver's hammerless gun. I was struck with the principle, and the gentleman in charge, finding that I was not a novice, showed me a few pieces and explained the action. I am bound to say it required but little explanation. Like all really clever inventions it is simple in the extreme. It depends upon no elaborate arrangement of springs. The trigger, as well as the internal hammer, is absolutely blocked—that is their natural state; and, until they are unlocked or released, the gun cannot be fired.

The story comes from New Zealand of a claimant to the Evelyn estates, comprising the property once known as the Deptford Dockyard. It is said that the celebrated John Evelyn gave over this property to the Government of the day at a peppercorn rent, subject to the condition that should the Government at any time give up the dockyard, the property was to revert to the family. This was a natural provision enough, and when the dockyard was given up it did revert to the supposed representative of the family. It would appear however that the real lineal descendant of John Evelyn, the Duke of Devonshire, the name of Wright, now residing in the town of Canterbury, N.Z., and I hear that he is taking steps to obtain possession of the family estates of Wotton Park, Surrey, and Sayes Court, Deptford.

Malta is once more the theatre of a sensational scandal. A lieutenant commanding one of the ships belonging to the Mediterranean Squadron brought with him to Valetta a lady who was supposed to be his newly-married bride. As a matter of course she was invited to the Palace, and, as all the public balls, and was for a time a guest at the houses of two of the principal English officials in the island. During the temporary absence of her husband with his ship, the attentions paid her by a well-known local tradesman created suspicion, an inquiry was set on foot, the marriage of the officer in question turned out to be a myth, and the lady was recognised as having at no very distant date moved in a very different sphere of society at Brighton. The scandal was subsequently allowed, only mad matters worse, and the whole business will shortly culminate in a naval court-martial.—Vanity Fair.

MUSIC.

Last week's concert of the Sacred Harmonic Society included the first performance of a new Te Deum composed by Mr. W. G. Cusins, conductor of the Philharmonic Society and of her Majesty's private band. The work is written for chorus and orchestra, with incidental solos for soprano, tenor, and baritone. It opens with a bold movement, *maestoso*, introduced by a few bars of orchestral prelude, with a reiterated figure in the bass which recurs during the course of the first chorus. This leads to a pleasing soprano solo, "To Thee all Angels," which was brightly sung by Miss Desbo. The soprano was followed by a chorus, "The glorious company," in which is some effective writing with some rather strained harmonic progressions. The tenor solo, "Thou art the King of Glory," requires to be as directed in the score, and was well sung by Miss Desbo. This is followed by a chorus, "We believe," which opens with a long unison passage for tenors and basses, the melody of which is imitated by the sopranos, with accompanying harmony by the other three divisions of the choir, followed by some striking modulations, and closing with a somewhat overwrought climax. A baritone solo follows, "O Lord, save Thy people," of which Mr. F. King made a fine use; and the work concludes with a figure, "O Lord, in Thee have I trusted," the subject of which is clearly defined, its treatment being well sustained. This is the best written portion of the Te Deum, most of which presents a mixture of styles, and a generally secular tone, that are unsuitable to ecclesiastical music. It was well rendered on the whole, excepting being taken to a misunderstanding of the tempo on the part of some of the singers in